

Hafa Adai!

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Hundreds of residents and visitors join the 8th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

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Poor turnout at public meeting for CUC co-op. PAGE 6

Saipan to help Japan monitor Earth's magnetic field

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan will soon be the latest area from where the global monitoring of

the Earth's magnetic field can be done, thanks to Kyushu University's Space Environment Research Center out of Japan. Dr. Kiyohumi Yumoto, director of Kyushu University's Space Environment

Research Center, said once they sign a memorandum of understanding with Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, they will be able to install a

\$40,000-magnetometer in the Kagman area in April or May.

This is part of the university's MAG-DAS, or Magnetic Data Acquisition System. See SAIPAN on Page 4

SENATE PANEL ON ROTA PUBLIC HEARING:

'We just want a stable status'

» 2 guest worker groups differ about Thursday's 'walk'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some nonresident workers who have been on Rota for many years want a "stable" immigration status—and not necessarily outright U.S. citizenship—that will enable them to remain in the CNMI beyond the end of the federalization transition period in 2014, said Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

Hofschneider is the chairman of the Senate Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee that held a public hearing on Rota Friday night on

the Senate's draft recommendation to Congress.

This early, however, two nonresident

See STATUS on Page 4

Lizama is new NMC board chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newest member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents was

elected chairperson during a special election Saturday.

Former judge Juan Lizama defeated Andrew Orsini on a 3-2 vote after getting the support of regents Malua Peter and Elaine Orilla.

Peter nominated Lizama while Frank Rabauliman nominated Orsini.

Saturday's special meeting was Lizama's only second attendance on the board following his recent confirmation to the regency.

He replaces Paz Younis as chairperson after the latter stepped down on Feb. 14 for personal

See LIZAMA on Page 4



25TH ANNIVERSARY

Visiting Seisa high school students give powerful cultural performances to mark the 25th anniversary of the Participate and Learn cultural and sports exchange program between Miyazawa Gakuen's Seisa High School and Marianas High School, at a celebration capped by a surprise fireworks display at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See more photos on Page 13



3 blue 'ducks' lead lazy river race for cancer

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Activities manager Glenn Policare, second right, gets the winning plastic ducks during the 2011 Duck Race for Cancer at Pacific Islands Club last Saturday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Race for Cancer Saturday night.

Three blue plastic ducks bought by Pacific Islands Club employees emerged victorious during the 3rd Annual Duck

Over 200 spectators showed up for the annual race, which is Team PIC-SEA Department's biggest fundraising event for the Marianas March Against Cancer. See DUCKS on Page 4



Local

'Deficiencies in SHEFA regulations penalize many students'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The board of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance has uncovered numerous inconsistencies and deficiencies in the program's regulations and policies that penalize many students.

Among these is the "irregularity" of providing financial grants to students who pursue master's degree with less than 12 credits as required by regulations.

"Almost all applications for spring 2011 term received and reviewed to date show that students pursuing a master's degree

carry a term load of less than 12 credits. Many of these students would tell SHEFA that 6 to 9 credit hours is considered a full load by that student's institution of record. This 6-9 credit range does not comply with the rules and regulations controlling full-time status," said administrator Henry Hofschneider during last week's meeting.

He disclosed that about 30 students have been affected by this problem.

Board member Jose Leon Guerrero pointed out that the "6-9 credit" was adopted by the previous board through an amendment of the regulations in April 2009.

Hofschneider reported, though, that it is not clear when exactly the board adopted the policy to reduce the full-time load for graduate and advanced degree seekers. SHEFA rules and regulations have not been amended to reflect the board's decision to reduce it, according to the administrator.

Jennifer Maratita, a full-time government employee who is seeking an advanced degree, appealed to the board to continue the grant, saying that stopping it would result in her dropping her units. Her tuition amounts to \$20,000 a year.

She said that SHEFA should help students pursue higher de-

grees and not punish them for the "inaction" of the board and its management.

Maratita said most federal aid programs recognize 9 credit units.

SHEFA board chair Jose Mafnas said these "inconsistencies and deficiencies" in the regulations are penalizing students. He instructed the administrator to check and verify the alleged amendment to the regulations.

Other concerns

Hofschneider also sought clarification if the board has the discretion to accept non-degree units, remedial, or developmental courses in order for a student to meet full-time status. He said

this is not permissible under regulations yet some students in these situations have been granted assistance.

Another concern cited is the lack of rules on students who are enrolled in two different institutions. Because online courses are not addressed in

SHEFA's rules and regulations, Hofschneider said the board also has to make a decision about online students.

He said the board needs to establish a policy that should require online students to carry at least 12 or more credits, similar to an academic term.

Part-time Legislature vs cutting Saipan House members by half

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said he is now working on a bill allowing a part-time legislature instead of the current full-time one, even as Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said a public hearing will be held on his initiative to reduce by half the number of House members from Saipan, from the current 18 to just nine.

Benavente said Friday that a part-time legislature is more appropriate than reducing the number of House seats for Saipan because of the "one man, one vote" rule.

The former lieutenant governor and former speaker said many U.S. states much bigger than the CNMI have managed to have a part-time legislature, and there's no reason why the CNMI can't.

But Palacios said his initiative will not violate the "one man, one vote" rule, and will be a good response to the shrinking population and shrinking economy.

He said a part-time legislature will not be appropriate because members will no longer give undivided attention to solving the CNMI's problems.

Palacios reiterated that by

reducing the number of Saipan House members from 18 to nine, the government will also save more than a million a year.

He said by having Saipan turned into a single precinct, internal infighting among members when it comes to allocations will be prevented.

Palacios formally introduced his House Legislative Initiative 17-4 during Friday's session. It was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Investigations.

Palacios, who is a member of the JGO Committee, said the panel plans to hold public hearings on the initiative.

If the initiative is approved by at least three-fourths of the House and Senate, it will be placed on the ballot in the next general elections for voter ratification or rejection. The governor's approval of the bill is not needed.

The House currently has 20 members—18 from Saipan, and one each from Rota and Tinian. The Senate has nine members—three each from Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Other House members support either reducing the number of Saipan seats or part-time Legislature, while others want a unicameral legislature like Guam's, which has a bigger population.

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House seeks OK for foreign docs in NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When Gov. Benigno R. Fitial meets with federal officials in Washington, D.C. starting this week, he will have at least two documents from the CNMI Legislature that will support his request to allow foreign-trained doctors to practice in the CNMI where physician shortage has been a problem for years.

The House of Representatives adopted Friday a resolution asking Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to initiate an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow foreign-trained doctors to practice in the CNMI where doctor shortage has been a problem for years.

The Senate is expected to also adopt House Joint Resolution 17-27 tomorrow. It asks the CNMI delegate to offer a bill to amend the INA to allow foreign-trained physicians to

practice medicine in the CNMI so long as they are licensed to practice medicine in any U.S. jurisdiction.

This is in addition to the requirement for foreign-trained doctors to pass parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners Examination or an equivalent exam as determined by the secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services.

The House also passed Friday a bill allowing foreign-trained physicians to work in the CNMI, after Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez succeeded in persuading members about the importance of passing the bill.

House Bill 17-71, introduced by Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), is also expected to pass the Senate on Tuesday.

HB 17-71 passed the House by vote of 19-0, a week after the House junked the bill, only to reconsider it a few minutes

later and refer it back to the Committee on Health to be able to obtain more information about the measure.

The health secretary told House members during the Friday afternoon session that HB 17-71 as written will not result in loss of federal grants to the Commonwealth Health Center such as Medicaid and Medicare, so long as foreign-trained physicians are licensed in the CNMI.

Villagomez said the bill, once signed into law, will allow foreign-trained doctors who are licensed to practice in the CNMI to use the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration registration number assigned to CHC. With this, these doctors can treat and prescribe medicine.

Villagomez asked House members to pass HB 17-71, which he said the governor will carry with him as he meets with officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"While we are asking for flexibility, we are also showing them that we are doing our part," he said.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the bill should be passed to address the CNMI's problem with doctor shortage.

All the 19 members present voted in favor of the bill; only Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) was absent.

Trial of DPW official in sex assault case set to proceed

The trial of a Department of Public Works official who is facing allegations of sexually assaulting a Workforce Investment Agency trainee will proceed with a bench trial in the Superior Court.

DPW Technical Services Division director Joseph Inos Jr., through counsel, assistant public defender Adam Miles, and assistant attorney general Shelli Neal recently notified the court about their intention to go ahead with the trial.

There will be a pre-trial conference on March 1, 2011. The bench trial of 33-year-old Inos will start on March 7, 2011.

Eight persons, including the alleged victim, are on the gov-

ernment's witness list.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Inos with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, misconduct in public office, and false arrest. He has pleaded not guilty.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest stated in the charging information that on Aug. 16, 2010 Inos had sexual contact with a then 17-year-old girl and that he detained her against her will. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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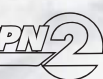
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 24

Kids Clinic for 17U

(and those who wish they were) 4pm - 6pm, Fiesta Resort & Spa main court, happy hour specials and registration for Marianas Cup and Marianas Kids Cup, t-shirt and ball sales

Friday, February 25

Pro Player Exhibition

6pm, Fiesta Resort & Spa main court, happy hour specials and registration for Marianas Cup (closes at 6pm) and Marianas Kids Cup, t-shirt and ball sales; ProAm pool play starts at 7pm (if only needed)

Saturday, February 26

ProAm Pool Play

7am-8am player check in, games start at 8am and go thru until finished, Fiesta Resort & Spa food & drinks special all day

Sunday, February 27

ProAm Double Elimination

7am-8am player check in, games start at 8am and go thru to finals (around 4pm), awards banquet immediately following (approx 6pm)

'25 years and counting'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What started out as a "simple wish" to put a smile on the faces of as many children as possible turned into a 25-year-long program that allowed over 8,000 Japanese and CNMI students to learn from each other despite language barriers, cultural differences, and a bitter past that saw their two countries on opposite sides of a war.

"This is a remarkable achievement, celebrating 25 years. I hope the program will continue for many years more," said Yasuo Miyazawa, presi-

dent and chairman of the Seisa Group.

Seisa Group, through Miyazawa's efforts, founded the Participate and Learn cultural and sports exchange program between Miyazawa Gakuen's Seisa High School and Marianas High School.

MHS and Seisa students, teachers, school administrators, Japanese and CNMI dignitaries celebrated the international exchange program's 25th anniversary at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Saturday night.

Miyazawa thanked everyone who has made the program a success throughout the past 25 years.

For this year, Miyazawa brought some 170 students from Japan to Saipan.

He said some 7,000 Japanese students and some 1,000 CNMI students have been able to participate in the program, highlighted by trips between the CNMI and Japan.

CNMI House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) personally presented Miyazawa with a framed copy of a resolution honoring his dedication to the exchange program.

House Resolution 17-34, which the House adopted a day before the presentation, commends Miyazawa "for his tireless work on behalf of peace and friendship between the youth of our islands and the youth of Japan."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garapan scouts starts weekly meetings Monday

The Garapan Cub Scout Pack 902 and Boy Scout Troop 902 will hold its weekly meetings beginning Monday, Feb. 21, from 9am to 11:30am at the Boy Scout office located at the Lower Navy Hill, MIHA Housing Unit A-14.

All members are asked to bring cooked food for lunch. Drinks will be provided. Boys between the ages of 7-17 who are interested in joining are invited to attend the meeting.

For more information, call Willy Garon at 483-9459 or Cal Reyes at 285-9709. (PR)

NMTI on John Gonzales LIVE!

John Gonzales Live will feature on Feb. 23 the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, from 7pm to 8pm on KSPN Ch. 2. Program guests are Tony Pellegriano, NMTI president and founder; and Vic S. Cepeda, NMTI education director.

The program will be live on Feb. 23 and will rebroadcast on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 27 and 28, 2011, all from 7pm to 8pm on KSPN Ch. 2.

JG LIVE also rebroadcasts worldwide to the listening audience of Internet radio Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Feb. 23, 2011 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, at 12pm Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam).

Viewers can participate by calling 287-4230, texting 285-META (6382), or emailing johngonzales@pticom.com. (PR)

Bangladeshi community to observe National Language Day today

The Saipan Bangladesh Cultural Group will be observing National Language Day today, Feb. 21, 2011, from 5pm to 7pm, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center auditorium.

Rakibul Islan Mintu, president of the Saipan Bangladesh Cultural Group, is inviting everyone in the CNMI community to the event, which will feature cultural programs such as songs and poetry reading. (PR)

LIZAMA

From Page 1

reasons.

Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* after the election that he didn't expect to get the chairmanship this early but he acknowledged and accepted the trust and confidence the "older" board members have placed in his ability to lead the panel.

Lizama said both Orilla and Peter had told him in advance that they will nominate him to the position.

When asked about his priorities and plans, Lizama said his leadership will continue to carry on with what the board has initiated to have the college's accreditation reaffirmed.

"We've got a good working team now and I think the most important

thing here is focus," he said, describing the position as a "full-time job."

Lizama said he is confident that "with the good people working together for NMC, accreditation will be reaffirmed by the institution."

According to Peter, she nominated Lizama to the post because she is confident that the retired judge has all the time required for the position.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera said her office is looking forward to working with the new board chair.

During an hour of executive session on Saturday, Cabrera's team gave the board an update how it is doing with the accreditation report it must submit to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

NMC only has a month to come up with a report explaining why its accreditation with WASC should not be

revoked.

The commission has placed the college on extended show-cause status due to some issues that the college has failed to address. Failure to rectify these deficiencies may result in the termination of its WASC accreditation.

Among the major concerns of the accreditation is the lack of stable leadership and governance at the college, including the president. NMC has had 10 presidents in just seven years.

The accreditation commission also cited the full governance of the board where it requires regents to undergo trainings and certifications to become effective in their roles.

As board chair, Lizama will be representing the college, along with the college president, in any upcoming accreditation meetings in San Francisco.

STATUS

From Page 1

worker groups differ in their approach to the Senate draft recommendation.

The draft recommendation is to allow nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 to apply in 2013 for a status similar to those granted to citizens of Freely Associated States.

The United Workers Movement-NMI led by its president Rabby Syed has called for a "walk" to oppose the Senate draft report on Feb. 24, while the Dekada Movement led by its president Bonifacio Sagana said they will not join the "walk" but will attend the public hearing at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Thursday night.

"A rally with placards is not necessary, in my opinion," Sagana said yesterday. "Although Dekada is not

fully supporting the Senate draft report, we believe that the Senate has made a good step because for the first time, CNMI elected officials have opened themselves to improved status. That's a start, and we could still ask them to make some changes."

Sagana said Dekada shares United Workers Movement's sentiment that there should be improved status before November 2011 when the CNMI-issued umbrella permits expire.

Syed had said the Senate draft report ignored UWM's written testimony which spoke of a petition with over 7,000 signatures asking for "green cards" and a pathway to citizenship.

Hofschneider said most of the nonresident workers who attended the public hearing on Rota have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years.

Some 30 showed up at the hearing. He said they had expected about a hundred to attend the hearing.

"Most of the nonresident workers who were at the hearing just wanted a stable status and direction. They didn't really say whether they want U.S. citizenship or green card, but any status that will help them stabilize their plan to remain in the CNMI," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in a phone interview.

Hofschneider said some residents who testified at the hearing told the Senate committee "to be very careful" in putting a grandfather clause in the recommendation.

"As chairman of the committee, I want to make it clear that the committee will be finalizing the report after the hearings are done. The final product will be given to the U.S. Congress, with the assistance of Delegate Kilili Sablan," he said.

He again called on community members to attend the public hearing on Saipan on Feb. 24, and on Tinian on Feb. 25.

The resolution also thanks Kuriko Sasaki for her efforts in planning and directing the Participate and Learn cultural and sports exchange program.

Tenorio, who has been a supporter of the program dating back when he was still governor, said for 25 years, Miyazawa "has been the driving force behind the cultural exchange program that has seen thousands of Japanese and Marianas students visit each other's countries and learn tolerance, respect, and their own self-worth."

He said many local students who have been through this program are now among the leaders of the community, and more leaders are yet to come, thanks to Miyazawa.

"It looks like Mr. Miyazawa will keep working forever, and I hope his exchange program continues for many more years. However, if he ever does decide to retire, I say to him, 'Miyazawa-sensei, you are always welcome to come here and live in our island para-

dise. We would be honored by your presence,'" Tenorio said in his brief remarks at the anniversary celebration.

Other dignitaries also delivered brief remarks, including the House speaker, MHS principal Craig Garrison and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores.

Japanese and CNMI officials also exchanged gifts and presented each other with plaques of appreciation. Also in the crowd were former Saipan mayor Juan B. Tudela, first MHS principal Vic Cepeda, former Education commissioner Dr. Liz Rechebei, Board of Education's MaryLou Ada, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

The speeches and Japanese and CNMI cultural performances alternated throughout the program and during dinner. Toward the end of the program, MHS and Seisa High School students went on stage to sing *We are the World*. Capping the night was a surprise fireworks display courtesy of MHS.

DUCKS

From Page 1

Cancer event in May.

Jay Danipog of the Housekeeping Department took home the grand prize of \$1,000 for his winning duck no. 2491.

Danipog, who also won \$1,000 during the PIC Buoy Bar raffle in August, bought only one duck at the hotel's employee parking lot because he only had five dollars in his pocket at the time.

Magellan Restaurant's Kenny Boaz, who also bought just one duck, placed second with duck no. 1984 and won \$300.

Faheem Ebrahim, a former PIC employee and duck race supporter for three years, bagged the third place with duck no. 221 and brought home \$200.

A total of 1,859 plastic ducks were sold for the 3rd Annual Duck Race for Cancer, beating previous years' sales by hundreds.

"It truly amazes me that even in these hard economic times, people are still willing to help others in need. We had people fly in from Japan and Guam just to come watch the event and show

their support," said sports manager Dennis Tababa.

Right before the duck race, PIC also held its inaugural corporate human duck race challenge called Race Around the River challenge at the hotel's Lazy River.

Costumed as ducks, representatives of 15 companies took on whirlpools and waterfalls as they competed in three preliminary rounds, with only nine swimmers advancing in the final heat.

Brad Ruszala of IT&E was neck and neck with Kento Akimaru of the Saipan Swim Club, beating the young swimmer by just a few seconds and winning a team building Laser Tag night for IT&E.

After the race, activities manager Glenn Policare told *Saipan Tribune* how amazed they were for the tremendous support they received for the race, both on and off-island.

"It's so overwhelming to know that we've reached so many people on a global level to help out in this fundraising event," he said.

Policare noted that the event was more than just winning the races. "It's about raising money for a great cause," he said.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

tem, project, which carries out research on the Sun, the Earth, and the region between the two using state-of-the-art technology.

By monitoring the Earth's magnetic field, scientists will be able to understand more about solar flares, for example, which are believed to be the most energetic explosions in the solar system and have a direct effect on the Earth's atmosphere.

Solar flares could disrupt long distance radio signals, disturb a satellite's orbit around the Earth, damage a satellite's electronic instruments in space, and are dangerous to astronauts in space.

Kyushu University continues to seek partners in expanding its global monitoring of the Earth's magnetic field.

Yumoto said the magnetometer that they plan to install on Saipan costs some \$40,000.

A magnetometer is a scientific instrument used to measure the strength and/or direction of the magnetic field in the vicinity of the instrument.

Yumoto said Kyushu University has so far installed some 70 magnetometers in different parts of the world.

"Yesterday we had negotiation for future collaboration to install one here," Yumoto said in an interview on Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Yumoto, who attended the Saipan-Seisa International Exchange Program's 25th anniversary, said Saipan being close to the equator makes it a good place to install a magnetometer.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who is instrumental in linking Yumoto with NMC-CREES, said Yumoto met with NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona on Friday to talk about the installation of the instrument.

Tenorio and Yumoto said once an MOU is signed, NMC-CREES will have to maintain the instrument for minimum fee. Tenorio said the maintenance fee could be as low as \$100 a month, but its contribution to scientific research will be tremendous.

"Even in Yap, they were able to install one," Tenorio said.

The MAGDAS Project has installed instruments in Japan, Australia, Antarctica, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Canada, the U.S., Peru, Brazil, Italy, and African countries.

More information about Kyushu University's MAGDAS Project is available at <http://www.serc.kyushu-u.ac.jp>.

'Donni sali' is star of the show in annual Tinian festival



By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian's Tachogna Beach was transformed into a fairground over the weekend as hundreds of residents and visitors joined the 8th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival festivities.

The annual festival, organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Marianas Visitors Authority, highlights Tinian's internationally famous hot pepper called *donni sali*.

Revelers enjoyed a selection of food, arts and crafts, and merchandise booths that filled the festival site as well as the various contests and performances.

For the Booth Competition, JM Snack Mobil bagged first place and won \$150. Natibu Club took home \$100 for winning second place while M&P Hot Lunch won third place and \$75.

Team DCCA-Tinian reigned in the Canoe Race, defeating last year's champion, Team JC Café, which came in second place, followed by Team Tinian Volleyball in third place.

Things heated up for Danny Lambert after winning first place in the Hot Pepper Eating Contest. Jay San Nicolas placed second while Napu Aldan bagged third place.

Winners for the Umang Race first set were C.J. Hofschneider, first place; Kimo Adriano, second place; and Jana Aldan, third place.

For the Estofao Pika Contest, Vincent Reyes and William Aguon won first place. Tina Atalig came in second place followed by Eugenio S. Enriquez at third place.

Team Pika dominated the beach volleyball competition, with Young Warriors and Team Donni placing second and third, respectively.

Island-style performances during the festival's first day included presentations from Grades 2 and 4 students of Tinian Elementary School, Hapi the Clown, cultural dance groups, and show bands.

The Saipan Awaodori Team and performing artist Parker Yobei entertained the Tinian community on Sunday.

With more media covering the event and the sponsors who provided assistance, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz said this year's hot pepper festival was a big success.

Dela Cruz, however, noted that transportation continues to be a challenge for Tinian's tourism since the ferry services of Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc. has been suspended since March 2010.

"We're still trying to find another means of mass transportation. Hopefully, more airlines will be able to give us super discounts for events like this so that more people from the neighboring islands can come over," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The mayor acknowledged Star Marianas, which provided

discounted rates for passengers from Saipan who traveled to Tinian for the festival.

Dela Cruz vowed to continue finding means to lower air travel

expenses to and from Tinian, especially with the San Jose Fiesta slated for April 29 to May 1.

Dela Cruz also thanked Marianas Visitors Authority, the

Tinian legislative delegation, Tinian Municipal Council, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for their contributions to this year's festival.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Spectators greet participants of the canoe race during the 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival at Tachogna Beach yesterday afternoon.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team perform during the second day of the 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

DIABETES FACT: Early Diagnosis Saves Lives and Your Eyes!



The American Diabetes Association reports that nearly 24 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes, and almost 57 million people have pre-diabetes. That is why it is so important to be aware of some of the risk factors: being overweight, having high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol, a family history of the

disease, as well as many others.

The ADA has also estimated that less than 1/3 of diabetic patients are getting a dilated eye exam every year, even though diabetes is the leading cause of blindness. Please don't take a chance with something as precious as your eyesight.

We're here to help and to answer your questions, whether simple or complicated.

HARDT
EYE CLINIC
235-2030

Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!

Yes, we accept your insurance—All major insurance plans accepted.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE FLU!



FREE for ALL!

NO CHC BLUE CARD NEEDED

Flu Vaccine Drive:

Saturday, February 26th!

TIME: 7AM to 12PM (or while supplies last)


WHERE: Ada Gymnasium

WHO: ALL people 6 months of age & older

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

**Flu shots will NOT be given to persons allergic to eggs or with a fever!
Children must be escorted by parental guardian.**

For more information, contact DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH at 236-8703
website: fluwatchdph.gov.mp





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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
Plaintiff,	10-0133
vs.	
FRANCISCO S. ROSARIO,	NOTICE OF SALE
Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated January 10, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Francisco S. Rosario' interests in Lot 005 I 513, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 005 I 513, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/92, the original of which was recorded 14 MAY 1982 as Document No. 14232 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
Plaintiff,	09 - 0274
vs.	
FRANCISCO A. DELA CRUZ and PRECILLA B DELA CRUZ,	NOTICE OF SALE
Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Auction Sale Order, dated February 14, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Francisco A. Dela Cruz and Precilla B. Dela Cruz' interests in Lot 010 K 64, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 010 K 64, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 1987 as Document No. 87-2911 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

Poor turnout at public meeting for CUC co-op

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After more than a year pushing for the establishment of a cooperative to run and manage the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., its main proponent, Fred Prosser, said his efforts seems to have reached a standstill as Thursday night's public hearing was sparsely attended.

He said that during last year's co-op meeting at the American Memorial Park, only seven people showed up. Thursday night's event at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center was also poorly attended with only 16 people present.

"I am very disappointed because a lot of people who promised me to come didn't show up. Some of them are from the Legislature and private businesses. They faithfully promised tonight and they are all no-

shows," said Prosser.

He said the long-desired co-operative for CUC is impossible to realize without getting the involvement of local people that would lead the core group.

"We need the local people to make it happen. Unless we get them, it won't happen. They need to wake up and realize that this is important and key to the change they long desired [for CUC]. They have to understand that they can't anymore count on the government and they need to act now," he said.

Prosser claimed that potential investors have already approached him, signifying their interest to build the cooperative.

Throughout the two-hour discussion, attendees raised concerns that Article 12 might be a stumbling block for the co-op to happen in the CNMI. Article 12 limits property ownership in the Commonwealth to those of

CNMI-descent only.


"The fact that outsiders cannot own property here, it will affect [the idea] because a cooperative is going to own property, therefore if you're an outsider, you cannot buy shares...and that's discrimination," said Prosser.

It was recommended that a thorough research and legal opinion be sought to clarify the matter.


When asked about the next meeting, a visibly frustrated Prosser said: "I don't know."

He assured, though, that he will not give up on the idea until residents realize the need to push for it. "This island cannot recover unless we bring in 'honest' investors," he added.

At the meeting, it was disclosed that allowing the public to own CUC could be done either through a referendum or public law. It was proposed that public shares of CUC could be offered at \$10 per share.



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB11-GOV- 003



Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the AGAG WATER SYSTEM WELL FIELD ISOLATION – PART A in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 2,600 linear feet of underground waterlines (4 inch through 12 inch) with appurtenant valves, fittings, and pressure reducing valves.
- Installation of six (6) deep well pumps in existing well.
- Installation of one (1) new booster pump and appurtenant equipment.
- Connect to existing waterlines.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving.
- Pressure testing and disinfection of new waterlines.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 21, 2011** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on March 4, 2011**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **March 3, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-003"** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 23, 2011**, and must be received no later than **April 1, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 4, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 24, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Prosser believes that making the public stakeholders of the corporation would benefit everyone as they will control and dictate the utilities rates. He cited the many success stories of small cooperatives in Hawaii and other areas that could be used as a pattern by the CNMI.

Ex-convict said to damage car with slingshot and spark plug

The Office Of the Attorney General has filed charges against an ex-convict who allegedly damaged the front windshield and window of a vehicle by using a slingshot and spark plug.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest charged the 43-year-old George Chomoki with two counts of criminal mischief.

Ernest stated in the charging information that on Sept. 18, 2010, Chomoki used a slingshot and spark plug to scratch and crack the front windshield of a silver 2003 Montero belonging to Litong Deng and Qin Yin.

Two days later, Chomoki again allegedly damaged the same vehicle's right front passenger window by using the tip of a slingshot.

The motive behind the incidents was not stated in court papers.

Chomoki was summoned to answer the charges in the Superior Court on March 7, 2011.

In November 2005, police arrested Chomoki and a companion for burglarizing the apartment room of Li Zhen Bin in western Garapan and stealing two cell phones and a bottle of perfume. In September 2005, the government charged Chomoki with slapping a man and kicking a police officer. In April 2004, he was arrested for stabbing another person in the leg during an argument at the MIHA housing in Garapan. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIA KARFELGAD-WEI, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0057
versus	SUMMONS
SHI YING WEI, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED REPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' HUSTISIA, IimwalAweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

MathCourt competition's revival a rousing success

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After suspending the MathCourt competition for primary graders last year, the Public School System revived the contest on Saturday to roaring success, with hundreds of students and spectators gracing the event at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

This year's regular meet drew 826 student contestants, over 80 proctors and volunteers, and hundreds of parents and community members in attendance—considered the biggest crowd ever recorded for the program since its inception in 2005.

Eight-year-old Kiran Shrestha never expected he would be on island to join the competition. He, along with a large delegation from Tinian, was a first-timer at the event.

"It was fun...and I enjoyed it!" he told *Saipan Tribune*. He hopes to come back for the regional rounds next month.

According to Tinian Elementary School principal Julian Hofschneider and TES MathCourt team coordinator Celina Farrell, they fielded 21 students from kindergarten to fifth grade. Although it was a first time for everyone to be at the event, they are all excited to be at the regional meet next month.

"This is the first time for our K to 5th graders to be in this competition and we're very happy to see that they had fun, they enjoyed the experience, and they loved it," said Farrell.

"We want our students to enjoy learning math and realize how this is important in their everyday lives. More importantly, we want them to realize that they are as good as students here or even better," added Hofschneider.

Saipan Tribune learned that of

Students from Tinian Elementary School pose with their teachers and coaches after the MathCourt competition at Chacha Oceanview Junior High Saturday.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

the 21-member Tinian delegation, only five students were subsidized by the school; donations from the Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Sen. Jude Hofschneider took care of the rest.

Oleai Elementary School principal Glenn Muna said his school fielded 64 students for various categories. Along with the parents, he was seen patiently waiting for each round of the contest.

Reo Arriola, MathCourt coordinator for the K-5th division, attributed the big success of the event to the dedication and commitment of the PSS MathCourt team and volunteers who made the event possible this year.

Compared to previous years with four regular meets for each division, the MathCourt competition only has two regular events for both K-5th and 6th - 12th divisions before the regional contest this year.

Last Saturday's competition was the final meet before the regional contest next month. Winners in each category are qualified to join the regional meet. In January, over 400 students competed in the first regular meet at Koblerville Elementary School.

Saturday's contestants were from eight public schools and seven private schools. The competition aims to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level.

Students competed in three categories: numbers, Algebra/data statistics and probability, and measurement/geometry.



United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



PUBLIC NOTICE TO CONDUCT SURVEY/INTERVIEW FOR FY 2012-2016 FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN FY 2012-2016

The Developmental Disabilities Act includes ten Areas of emphasis that the DD Councils are to address in their state plans according to the needs of their communities, input from people with disabilities or their family members, and the status of service delivery systems. The ten areas of emphasis in alphabetical order are:

- CHILD CARE
- CROSS CUTTING
- EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION
- EMPLOYMENT
- FORMAL/INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- QUALITY ASSURANCE
- RECREATION
- TRANSPORTATION

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting surveys/interviews on the island of Saipan on what priorities/goals that best utilizes the CNMI limited resources to increase system capacity, encourage advocacy and self-advocacy, and work toward system change in the areas of emphasis laid out by the federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

During the surveys/interviews, individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, and the general public will be provided the opportunity to provide their input and comments that will assist the Council with identifying priority issues that the Council can effectively address in the goals and objectives of the proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN for Fiscal Years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these surveys/interviews are confidential.

Schedule of Survey/Interview on Saipan

Koblerville	Susupe	Tanapag	Kagman
WHEN: February 22, 2011	WHEN: February 23, 2011	WHEN: February 24, 2011	WHEN: TBA
WHERE: Koblerville Youth Center	WHERE: Multi-Purpose Center	WHERE: Tanapag Youth Center	WHERE: TBA
TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

**** Surveys/Interviews have been conducted for the islands of Tinian on Jan. 13-15, 2011 & Rota on Jan. 21-22, 2011.**

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (large print, sign language interpreter) to participate, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This advertisement was paid for with DD Basic Grant Funds



Vacancy Announcement PAIMI Advisory Council Member

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI) wishes to announce vacancies for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council (PAC).

The PAIMI program is being administered by NMPASI, a non-profit organization. The Council's purpose is to "advise the PAIMI program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness."

The council is comprised of eight volunteer members who serve four year terms. The ideal candidate will help promote the organization's mission, program, and activities. The council's responsibilities include but not limited to

- Attend regular council meetings, four times annually;
- Provide independent advice and recommendations to the system;
- Work jointly with the governing board in developing policies and priorities; and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meeting on behalf of the PAIMI program

Currently, the Council needs to fill positions for the following categories:

- (1) Individual who is a recipient/former recipient of mental health services;
- (2) mental health service provider;
- (3) mental health professional; and
- (4) Individual from the public knowledgeable about mental illness.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Melrosa Rebuénog, PAIMI Chair, via the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. / P.O. Box 503529 / Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver to the NMPASI office located in Gualo Rai. All letters of interests must be received no later than 5:00 PM on March 1, 2011.

For more information, please feel free to contact the NMPASI's Executive Director, James Rayphand at 235-7273/4 (voice), or 235-7278 (tty).



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-GOV-050

ADDENDUM NO. 1
02-17-11

Tier II Testing Services for the Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bid ("ITB") for the **"Tier II Testing Services for the Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to modify Scope of Work, include one (1) sheet of the dumsite plan, extend when bids are due, when bids will open and extend performance time to sixty (60) calendar days. Amendment shall read:

*Bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., March 10, 2011 ChST**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March 10, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 10, 2011** and must be received no later than **March 22, 2011 ChST**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.*

*Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 23, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **11:00 a.m. ChST March 10, 2011**.*

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. John Reyes, Project Coordinator at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408. Questions are due no later than close of business day February 24, 2011.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

Judge denies motions filed by Fernandez, NMC, regents

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied the motions filed by parties in the lawsuit involving former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez, NMC, and its former regents.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday denied Fernandez's motion to dismiss the counter complaint and also denied NMC's and its former regents' three separate motions for summary judgment.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Fernandez's motion is untimely since she has already answered the counterclaims that she attacks in the motion.

NMC's and the regents' motions for summary judgment were denied for being improperly filed.

Taken together, Tydingco-Gatewood said, the supporting memoranda in the motions run to 63 pages. She pointed out that briefs or memoranda supporting or opposing a motion should not exceed 25 pages.

She cited a controlling decision in a previous case that states that "Defendants' strategy of dividing its arguments in three motions appears to be an attempt to evade the Civil Local Rules" and "this type of rule-bending motion practice is unacceptable."

Tydingco-Gatewood vacated the scheduled March 21, 2011 hearing date of the motions. She, however, allowed the parties to re-file their revised motions on or before March 3, 2011.

The judge said should Fernandez re-file the motion to dismiss, she must indicate whether she is doing so under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and must include a discussion of the proper standards such as the proper analysis.

Tydingco-Gatewood said NMC and its regents may file one such motion, not three.

If they cannot fit their arguments into a 25-page memorandum, the judge said, then they must ask permission to exceed the page limit.

Fernandez is suing NMC, former regents Janet King and Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, and sitting regents Andrew L. Orsini and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to defame her. She is also suing NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

In its counter lawsuit, NMC is suing Fernandez for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. NMC alleged that Fernandez failed to follow proper procedures in changing some student grades, in contravention of NMC's grade change policy.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 21, 2000

Tinian mayor backs proposed labor and immigration reform

Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja has expressed his support on the plans of House Speaker Benigno Fitial to reform labor and business laws of the CNMI. While he agrees that the hiring moratorium should be lifted, Mr. Borja said some safety nets must be put in place to ensure its smooth implementation. All employers, he said, should be mandated to recruit and train locals and U.S. citizens, not just garment manufacturers. An employer who does not take part in the local training should not be allowed to hire off-island workers for that position.

Monthly allowance of Rota, Tinian lawmakers hiked

The House of Representatives on Friday established a higher fixed monthly allowance for legislators from Rota and Tinian, a move that solicited criticism from other government officials in view of the standing austerity program initiated by the administration. House Resolution 12-011, which establishes per diem rate for Tinian and Rota lawmakers, was adopted by the lower chamber of the CNMI Legislature in a vote of 13 yes, three against and one abstention. According to Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, the subsistence allowance previously received by Tinian and Rota legislators are not enough to cover the actual expenses they incur while attending government business on Saipan.

Feb. 21, 2001

Manglona decries changes to Village Homestead Act

Rota would be hard pressed to comply with amendments to the Village Homestead Act if an initiative to change some of its provisions is passed. This was the assessment of the island's highest local official, Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona. House Bill 12-186 seeks to mandate the orderly emplacement of basic infrastructure in new and old subdivisions and lots and to give those homesteaders experiencing hardship opportunities to improve their shelters. Among the amendments being entertained is that there should be in place, paved roads, street lights, sidewalks, and storm drainage before a homestead tract can be made available.

Plan to extend go't workers' retirement benefits opposed

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona is not upbeat with a plan to extend retirement benefits to government employees who retired prior to the enactment of Public Law 6-17 or the Retirement Act Fund. He argued that the fiscal integrity of the Retirement Fund is crucial and no changes should be made to the law, which might threaten the government's ability to take care of present and future obligations to retirees. "Perhaps I don't appreciate all the fine points of these proposed amendments, but how do we pay for the retirement fund benefits for the 'former employees?'" Who pays their contributions?," Mr. Manglona remarked.

Feb. 21, 2002

Benavente defends wage hikes for Cabinet

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente rejected insinuations that the proposed salaries for the governor's special advisers are contrary to the austerity measures being implemented by the Babauta administration, implying that the salary hikes are justified. Benavente told reporters yesterday that the administration's primary goal is to accomplish and resolve the problems that the Commonwealth is faced with and, if spending more to hire qualified people would do the trick, then the Babauta administration would do it. "The Governor has issued a directive on some cost-cutting in some areas but we're not requiring cost-cutting in areas or problems that we feel need to be resolved at once. Therefore, I am here to support the governor's appointments and hiring of certain individuals who we feel would play a major role and would resolve those problems," he said.

\$15M shortfall in Rota runway project

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos P. Salas told Senate leaders yesterday that the proposed extension of the Rota International Airport would cost an estimated \$20 million, or about \$15 million more than the amount currently available for the project. To make up for the shortfall, Senate President Paul A. Manglona told reporters that Salas is planning to approach the Federal Aviation Administration to solicit for any assistance it can give to complete the project.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



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The office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC surveyed vehicles located in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Interested bidders must bid on all vehicles specified, for either Saipan, Tinian or Rota; or bid on all vehicles specified on all three Islands.

The bid form, list of surveyed vehicles and other relevant information may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-11-021, CUC SURVEYED VEHICLES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M. ChST, March 17, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Prospective bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting this transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the properties.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), **March 11, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email msablan@cucgov.net or Joseph M. Fejeran, Purchasing Specialist via email jfejeran@cucgov.net.

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Executive Director

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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End this absurd war

By GLENN GARVIN
THE MIAMI HERALD

The veteran sitting across the table from me looked weary after delivering yet another speech against a war that has neither a point nor, apparently, an end. It was started years ago by a Republican president, long since discredited, the veteran noted. Yet the Democrats who until a few weeks ago controlled both the White House and Congress didn't raise a finger to stop it. "I don't understand how much more money has to be wasted or how many more lives have to be ruined before we admit it's been a huge mistake," Kyle Vogt told me. "We can end this thing with the stroke of a pen."

He wasn't referring to Iraq or Afghanistan, but America's truly endless war, the war on drugs. Declared 40 years ago by President Nixon, it chews up \$41 billion in government spending each year while sending 2 million Americans to jail. Yet Nixon's goal of a drug-free America ("the final issue is not whether we will conquer drug abuse, but how soon") seems no closer to anyone but the drug warriors themselves.

"All these years later, the people running the drug war keep promising us the same thing they have from the beginning, that they can decrease drug use," Vogt said. "They just need a little more time and a little more money. Why do we listen? We wouldn't tolerate that from a physician who was treating us and not making us any better."

"And if everything your physician told you to do made your illness worse, you'd quit doing it and find another doctor."

Vogt, who served four years as a military policeman on a Maryland Army base, speaks as a veteran of the front lines of the drug war. He's one of an increasing number of former drug warriors turned doves. Their organization, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), includes 4,000 people—from beat cops through Gary Johnson, the former governor of New Mexico—who once played roles in enforcing drug laws.

I caught up with Vogt in a Fort Lauderdale coffee shop recently after he spoke to Broward County's Libertarian Party. He told me that if LEAP membership weren't career suicide, its roster would be full of current policemen, prosecutors and judges as well.

"I talk to law-enforcement people all the time," he said. "I'd guess eight out of every 10 are totally against this prohibition policy we follow on drugs. And every single one of them is baffled that we put people in jail for marijuana. Marijuana doesn't kill anyone, while we see that in the case of alcohol all the time."

Baby Boomers, most of whom used marijuana themselves when they were younger, like to kid themselves that the war on drugs that they've wholeheartedly supported as adults is aimed not at marijuana but harder drugs, and not at users but traffickers.

But the cold fact is that U.S. drug-enforcement policy overwhelmingly targets not drug lords but the people to whom they sell. FBI statistics for 2007 show that more than 80 percent of U.S. drug arrests that year were for possession rather than sale, and that there were nearly twice as many arrests for marijuana as for heroin and cocaine combined.

When he was a military policeman, Vogt thought arresting people for using marijuana was weird: "If we were called to a domestic dispute or a hostage situation, we worried about alcohol, not marijuana, because it's alcohol that makes people crazy." But it wasn't until after he left the military and opened a construction business in Port St. Lucie that he turned into an

See END on Next Page



Thinking aloud about what's happening to us

This morning let's sit down over a cup of coffee and review where we have been and try to understand how we got into the economic mess we find ourselves in. Let's also see if we can find any solutions to rectifying this dilemma. No, I don't have any quick fixes or any solutions any more than you do. But it doesn't hurt to review the past.

Bear with me as we wrestle with some history. Perhaps the next time we can do a better job if we understand what role we played in all of this. It wasn't just the U.S. We are part of the problem. As an old saying goes: "It take two to tango." The objective here is not to point fingers but to try to unravel how we got where we are today. Let's review some facts.

The Covenant establishes that the "United States will assist the Government of the Northern Marianas to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people as part of the American economic community and to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government."

Many people feel that the U.S. has not met this obligation. I also feel this way. But what did we do or are doing to assist the U.S. in achieving their responsibility? Have we tried to operate our own economy or have we given it away to outsiders? How have we been preparing ourselves over the years to work alongside the U.S.? Think about it.

We experienced a most successful private sector economic expansion in Pacific Island history between 1980 and 2004. But now we are in the throes of a serious economic depression. All of the economic boom was swiftly blown away when the U.S. lifted the quotas on garment exports to the U.S. This action by the U.S. destroyed within a few years the economic progress we had made. We are now feeling its draconian effects.

Somehow we became convinced that by using foreign workers to labor for us, we would get rich. What we failed to realize that success is not bred on the back of others. We were lulled into a false sense of security by the owners of the garment factories. And who were most of them—foreigners! During all this time our government leaders went along with this charade.

During this boom period of the garment industry the will of our people to work was destroyed. They were neglected. Only a few elite benefited. The few locals that were employed by the garment industry were actually "ghost employees" hired only to fulfill the 20 percent requirement. Almost none of them ever actually worked in a factory but only received their salaries. Why didn't anyone check that out?

We were dazed by the few bones they threw at us. I honestly believe had we motivated our local people to work alongside the nonresident workers we imported this whole scenario would have been different. I venture to even admit that perhaps the garment industry might still be with us.

Yes, the United States should have understood better what they were about to destroy. They could have come in and stopped the abusive working conditions. The abusive treatment of the garment workers was widely circulated. Finally it became a case in which everybody was punished for the wrongdoings of the few. Emotions were running high.

It is sad but many in Washington were influenced by the stories about so-called slave labor, abuses of workers, etc. Without trying

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



to correct them, they decided instead to destroy all the economic benefits. Their drastic action began the downfall of our economy. Some members in Congress became quite vocal and put pressure on their peers. As a result irrational emotions ruled and out went a booming industry.

In my opinion this was an act of hypocrisy. All of the loudest critics in Washington had the same labor abuses in their own states, but it would not be politically expedient to correct the abuses in their own backyards. But to do so thousands of miles away made them look like champions of the weak. And we are now suffering for it. What hypocrisy!

One point that I have not heard anyone express is: when the manufacture of garments shifted to China and Vietnam where they are now being made at pennies an hour for labor, are these garments imported into the United States cheaper to purchase? I don't think so. The prices are as high as ever. All that happened is it widened the profit margin for the few again and destroyed a prosperous economy needlessly. Have the so-called labor abuses been corrected now that the garments are made in the manufacturers' home country? Think about all this. We got shafted royally.

Then just a few years ago the United States continued its adverse actions against the CNMI. It applied the federal minimum wage and immigration laws upon us. Unable to compete with China's cheap labor, all the garment factories shut down. By 2007, total employment dropped by 35.6 percent.

Seemingly as an encore, federalization has been imposed on us. All of this is being done in the name of "national security." Against whom and what? The timetable says that by 2014 most, if not all, foreign workers will be deported. Meanwhile the minimum wage keeps crawling up. Besides whining, what are we doing to face up to the challenge?

What some policy makers in Washington seriously fail to realize is that the economic issues faced by the CNMI and other small, isolated areas, including other U.S. territories, relate to size, transport costs, trade, labor, land, capital, resources, and public services and facilities. While these issues also affect states in the U.S., what must be realized is that we are unique in that we are surrounded by an ocean and by a scarcity worse than in the states. It is a foolish and unrealistic policy to expect us to rebound from policies that hurt us as has just been done. Better understanding and planning must be undertaken.

Here is where we fit in. We must show the U.S. that we are trying to help ourselves. We must show them that we are training our own local workforce, regardless whether it is sufficient or not. But we must show and demonstrate that we are willing to change and

See THINKING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

All the President, a Man (sic)

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Amelia Earhart said, "There is more to life than being a passenger." She should know. She flew herself into world renown from the driver's seat!

Amelia is a phantom resident of the Saipan jail as some TT hands promote the historical footnote that she was sighted as a Japanese prisoner during WWII after she was declared missing when her flight from Oceania to Honolulu lost radio contact.

Presidents Day was originally meant to commemorate the memory of George the-cherry-tree-cutting Washington until Honest Abe Lincoln whose birthday 10 days before got drawn in, and now the CoC of many towns commemorate all the Presidents. We still spin the story of George owning up to the tree chopping to remind one and all that Presidents are supposed to tell the truth. If we have to go that far to draw such a reminder, something in the office must have been lost long time ago.

The election of Barack Hussein Obama came as mixed blessing. For those who hope for a driver to act as a wedgeblade into the annals of history and be a cutting edge into the future, they will inhale the dust off the tea party cavalcades, as "southern" folks resuscitate

THINKING

From Page 10

recapture our economy. We need their assistance, not just handouts.

I strongly feel that this is what is happening to our relations with the U.S. now. They mistrust us! And we mistrust them! Some of us are even saying let's separate or change the Covenant. Meanwhile the U.S. tries to impose more restrictions. Is it because we haven't proved to them that we are working hard to hold up our end of the bargain? Why? You tell me.

But, sad to report, a wall of mistrust is hindering our solutions to our dilemma. Don't you think the United States wants a better working relationship with us? It is to their benefit. We also want a better relationship. So what should we do?

We must sincerely reach out our hand to them and ask them repeatedly to sit down with us and talk and talk with us, not at us, until we reach a settlement. Life is made up of compromises and we are in a situation of compromises waiting to be dealt. There is no dispute that we need each other. But unless we change and make them believe that we are sincere in it, the mistrust will continue. Do you think that there is a better way? Please show us if you do. Am I being naïve? That's why I raised this point to bring out your ideas. Let's do it! Have a great day.

END

From Page 10

active opponent of marijuana laws.

"My son was arrested after a cop saw him smoking a joint in a parked car," Vogt said. "He had to pay a fine of a couple of hundred dollars, which is not such a big deal, at least not for us. But college scholarships? Forget it. My son can't even get a simple job. He goes online to fill out an application to work at a hamburger chain, and he gets to that little box that says, 'Have you ever been arrested?' And when he clicks yes, the next thing he sees on the screen is, SESSION ENDED."

The worst, Vogt fears, is yet to come. He looks south across the border to Mexico, now the most murderous country in the world as a result of warfare between drug cartels competing for the U.S. market, and sees a grim vision of America's future.

"Prohibition creates crime and violence in our society that need not exist, except for the policy of prohibition itself," he said, shaking his head. "We tried this with alcohol, and we had gangsters, just like Mexico does. And when we replaced Prohibition with a system of regulation and control, we got rid of the gangsters. You don't see Coors and Budweiser doing drive-by shootings or planting car bombs to increase their market share."

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him via e-mail at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.

the strict constitutional tradition that propped racial discrimination in the blighted side of American history.

I write at the moment from Manila, whose executive practice since Quezon has aped the American democratic form without the practical function or the common citizen spirit. It is focused on power rather than the task of leadership, and organized like a hierarchical industrial economy rather than horizontal sustainable ecology (*economy*). Effectivity is measured by individual achievement rather than communal accomplishment.

Cory, who identified herself as "only a housewife" of martyred Ninoy Aquino, was propelled into the strong-willed role of the "yellow President." With a father adored like a Jose Rizal, and Cory the "yellow" first mother, current Malacañang resident Noynoy Aquino has unassailable pedigree. "There are no schools for Presidents," Cory got clear quickly. One shapes one's term in the process of doing. Noynoy is learning.

Barack Obama rode on a national sentiment that transcended the historical guilt over the slavery of West Africans, now sublimated to generic non-Aryan immigrants. Apostle of British imperialism Rudyard Kipling (a Makati watering hole bears his name) wrote the *White Man's Burden* to exhort Americans to bestow Western civilization on the Philippines. President Taft did the best he could to teach Filipinos to become little brown brothers, even supporting a Federalist party to prepare the islands for eventual statehood.

While the oligarchy that took over Spain and later blessed by Uncle Sam might have wanted to be an extension of the American eagle, the Indo-Malay with ancient Sino roots were stubbornly Asian to be assimilated into the American union. In 1915, American support shifted from future integration into final independence in self-defense. Southern agriculture was threatened. By 1935, FDR established the Commonwealth, and Truman OK'd independence

Letters to the Editor

Letter of apology

To the CNMI Public School System and people of the CNMI: I sincerely apologize to the PSS and the people of the CNMI for the removal and possession of government property. What happened was that a person who I cared about told me she needed to borrow money desperately because she was about to be sued if she did not pay the attorney who was going to sue her. I didn't have any cash but I wanted to help. My friend knew I had just gotten a laptop from PSS and she asked that I pawn it to get her the money she needed. I did. Just two days later, as soon as I had some cash, I went to the pawnshop to pay the cost of the pawn and retrieve the laptop. I was told that OPA had found and taken possession of the laptop.

I was influenced by the need of a friend. Nevertheless, I accept full responsibility and the consequences of my actions. I didn't really mean to do this. All I thought was I am helping someone but I was not being smart because I didn't think twice. I should have thought about the consequences of my actions, and made a better choice that day. It was not my intention to remove the issued property to me because after two days I went back to the pawnshop and found out that item was already with OPA. My mistake caused me to experience financial hardship in my life. My sentence is that I can't work for the CNMI government for 10 years. I was a teacher at PSS and I loved teaching and I loved the children and I am so sad. I resigned with PSS and this incident has had an emotional effect on my being as well as my family. At this stage, I still want to continue my profession and work with the private company and be a better citizen of the CNMI. Once again, my sincere apology to PSS and the people of the CNMI.

Criselda Aldan

Sales shack on Mt. Topachao?

The coconut wireless has it that some enterprising Chinese has set up a sales shack at Mt. Topachao, and is selling tacky souvenirs to the tourists there on a daily basis. (Maybe they are like the Falun Gong, and show up only when they know tour groups are scheduled to go up there?)

Is this legal? Does he have a permit? Was the spot bid out? Are there any criteria such vendors are supposed to meet in what they sell, in the "shacks" they construct?

I can't think of a more off-putting addition to one of Saipan's most popular tourist sites!

Who's in charge of such things?

Ruth Tighe

Tanapag, Saipan

a decade later when post-WWII Pea Eye was barely standing, and the U.S. treasury took on the task of reconstructing friends and foes.

Our celebration today is that of the office of the President. Two icons in the American psyche, the medieval supernatural Jesus Christ and the industrial schizoid Clark Kent turned messianic Superman, have come to influence our expectation of the office. Never mind that the history of George and Abe featured the common humanity of the occupants rather than their super zealotry, Obama comes through in the White House as a thoroughly recognizable ordinary human being asked to perform a superstar function. And while many bicker over power, he seems gamely focused on the task, and so thoroughly human, more plebian than imperial.

Too many American passengers are hopeful of Obama's driving skills, as Pinoys expect Noynoy to improve on his, but of course, the office does not require the white knight of the shining armor, or the Lone Ranger with sidekick Tonto. Pinoys are now just getting out of being Juan Tamad [Lazy Juan] waiting for the hand of Providence to ripen the fruit of destiny.

Pope John XXIII was said to have told himself while mulling over some issues to make sure he tells the Pope about it in the morning, until he woke up and realized that he was the Pope. Similarly, Obama probably feels the same way, and as the Egyptians have recently awakened to the reality that perhaps, functions of the Office of the President is better spread out as much as possible, it is nigh high that Americans and Filipinos realize that the Office of the President is their own creation and start raising the JFK query: Ask not what the country can do for you; rather, ask what you can do for your country.

We've so thoroughly maligned the image of the barefoot carpenter of Galilee so we won't go any further over there, but Clark Kent is only a comic book hero, so long live the President!

Reconfigure plan to raise power rates

As a concerned citizen of Saipan it is difficult to understand how CUC and local government officials cannot see the devastation at hand with the current electrical rate increases. We the people already are living paycheck to paycheck, let alone the thousands without employment. Not considering that many of the employed are only making minimum wage and are single house incomes. These are only a small fraction of the equation at hand with the electrical rate increases.

As the old analogy goes, drop a pebble in the water and watch the ripple effect. The only difference in this case is the ripple effect will be children living in homes with no power. Families will be forced to live in poverty. The needed support that electricity gives to a family is not a paid comfort but a necessity that gives light to the eyes of thousands of children who need to be able to do their homework.

The government and CUC need to reconfigure their plan so that it sustains life here on island before they force all people to leave. If the cost of electricity exceeds the home income of a family or even puts that family at risk of living in poverty, how is that helping the community? Is that going to draw industry jobs to the island? Will that draw qualified teachers for our children? The list could go on and on for pages on what the ripple effect will be here on Saipan.

Nathan J. Carrick

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Clarification please

Mr. Ambrose Bennett: I read your letter to the editor titled "Social Science and Politics." Please clarify the following statements you made in the article:

1. "The scary part is majority of the new employees are Carolinian and the majority of the ones leaving are Chamorros, which is a very frightening thought should this phenomenon continue for another four years." Frightening? Hmmm.

2. "The government used to be a Chamolinian and now it is just Carolinian." Personnel, got accurate data on that?

3. "The threat is real and this hiring practice is starting to pose a real danger on society, especially if it continues." Are you trying to start a riot here?

Last question, would you and the concerned Chamorros have felt the same way if it were the other way around and the Chamorros were to run the government? Or a different ethnic group?






Josie Kaipat

Kagman II, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

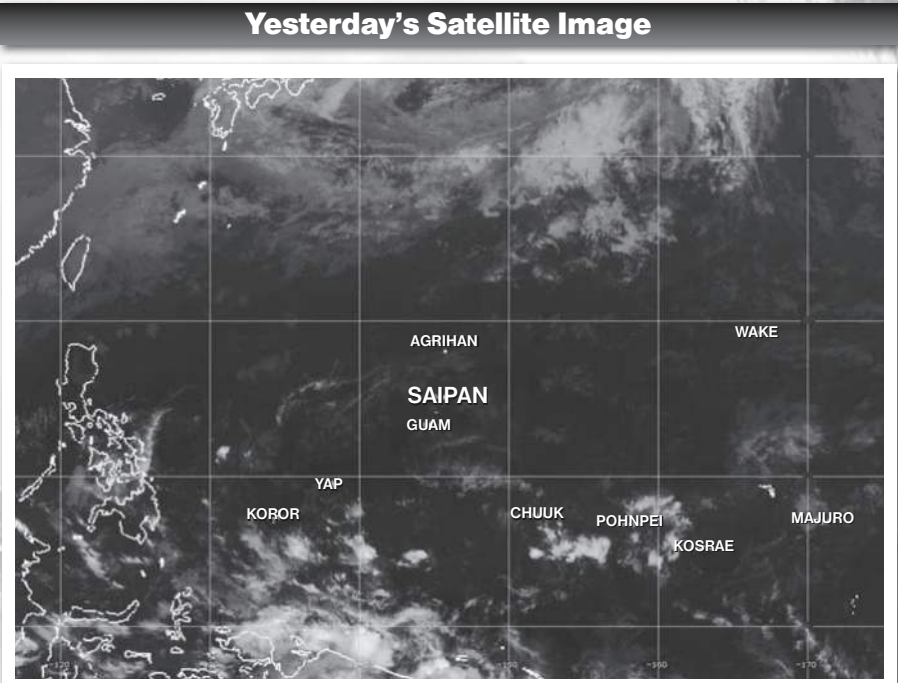
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼66
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲47 ▼26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼69
London	Rain	▲52 ▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼62
New York	Showers	▲44 ▼19
Osaka	Showers	▲50 ▼43
Paris	Rain	▲52 ▼43
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▼40
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼42
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼32
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼42
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▼31
Tokyo	Showers	▲55 ▼43
Washington, DC	Showers	▲54 ▼31

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging surface winds are creating scattered showers over Minami Torishima or north of a line from 23N149E to 24N155E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from south of Mindanao to 4N130E to southeast of Yap at 5N140E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei at 4N155E. The trough then turns southeastward to end at EQ160E. Converging northwest winds south of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along the equator south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 3N135E to 2N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found near the trough axis from south of Yap eastward over Chuuk Pohnpei and Kosrae or between 3N and 8N from 137E to 164E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers north of Kwajalein over Wotje and Utirik atolls between 9N and 14N from 167E to 174E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Today	9:19 PM	8:29 AM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Tuesday	10:19 PM	9:16 AM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Wednesday	11:20 PM	10:06 AM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday		10:58 AM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Friday	12:20 AM	11:52 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am 3:35am
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am 7:25am
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am 7:50am
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am 10:55am
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm 2:30pm
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm 5:50pm
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm 8:50pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:05pm
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm 12:20am+1
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm 12:30am+1
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm 1:50am+1
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm 1:55am+1
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am 2:20pm
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am 12:20am+1
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am 8:50pm
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:00am+1
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:30am+1
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:25am+1
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:50am+1
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:25am+1
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:50am+1
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm 7:50am+1
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm 7:50am+1
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am 2:20pm
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am 2:20pm
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:00am+1
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:30am+1
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm 7:50am+1
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE					
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD
Guam-Rota			FRE 113	11:40	11:50
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00
Rota-Saipan			FRE 117	14:30	14:40
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00
Guam-Rota			FRE 121	16:40	16:50
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40
Rota-Saipan			FRE 125	18:30	18:40
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan	
Saipan-Rota			FRE 102	7:05	7:15
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50
Rota-Guam			FRE 106	8:20	8:30
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00
Saipan-Rota			FRE 110	10:00	10:10
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05
Rota-Guam			FRE 114	12:00	12:10
FRE 400			FRE 116	13:30	13:40
Saipan-Tinian			FRE 118	14:50	15:00
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Cultural Exchange Program



From left, Seisa High School principal Hajime Kanako, Dr. Liz Rechebei, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), and Seisa Group president and chairman Yasuo Miyazawa at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Seisa International Exchange Program between Marianas High School of Saipan and Seisa High School of Japan, held at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Seisa Group president and chairman Yasuo Miyazawa gestures as he addresses a big crowd at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Seisa International Exchange Program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Japanese cultural performances command the stage at the anniversary celebration.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Riveting performances from Japanese students and adults keep the audience glued to the anniversary celebration of the cultural exchange program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), left, and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), second from left, present Seisa Group president and chairman Yasuo Miyazawa with a framed copy of House Resolution 17-34 honoring Miyazawa for his dedication to the Participate and Learn cultural and sports exchange program between Seisa High School and Marianas High School.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Seisa High School and Marianas High School students wave their hands as they sing We are the World on stage.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Students of Marianas High School and Seisa High School, along with guests, look at a surprise fireworks display courtesy of MHS, at the conclusion of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Seisa International Exchange Program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Awe-inspiring Japanese cultural performances were among the highlights of the program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Scientist finds Gulf bottom still oily, dead

WASHINGTON (AP)—Oil from the BP spill remains stuck on the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, according to a top scientist's video and slides that she says demonstrate the oil isn't degrading as hoped and has decimated life on parts of the sea floor.

That report is at odds with a recent report by the BP spill compensation czar that said nearly all will be well by 2012.

At a science conference in Washington Saturday, marine scientist Samantha Joye of the University of Georgia aired early results of her December submarine dives around the BP spill site. She went to places she had visited in the summer and expected the oil and residue from oil-munching microbes would be gone by then. It wasn't.

"There's some sort of a bottleneck we have yet to identify for why this stuff doesn't seem to be degrading," Joye told the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference in Washington. Her research and those of her colleagues contrasts with other studies that show a more



This Dec. 1, 2010 photo provided by the University of Georgia, made from the submarine Alvin, shows a dead crab with oil residue near it on a still-damaged sea floor about 10 miles north of the BP oil rig accident.

optimistic outlook about the health of the gulf, saying microbes did great work munching the oil.

"Magic microbes consumed maybe 10 percent of the total discharge, the rest of it we don't know," Joye said, later adding: "there's a lot of it out there."

The head of the agency in charge of the health of the Gulf said Saturday that she thought that "most of the oil is gone." And a Department of Energy scientist, doing research with a grant from BP from before the spill, said his examination of oil plumes in the water col-

umn show that microbes have done a "fairly fast" job of eating the oil. Lawrence Berkeley National Lab scientist Terry Hazen said his research differs from Joye's because they looked at different places at different times.

Joye's research was more

widespread, but has been slower in being published in scientific literature.

In five different expeditions, the last one in December, Joye and colleagues took 250 cores of the sea floor and travelled across 2,600 square miles. Some of the locations she had been studying before the oil spill on April 20 and said there was a noticeable change. Much of the oil she found on the sea floor—and in the water column—was chemically fingerprinted, proving it comes from the BP spill. Joye is still waiting for results to show other oil samples she tested are from BP's Macondo well.

She also showed pictures of oil-choked bottom-dwelling creatures. They included dead crabs and brittle stars—starfish like critters that are normally bright orange and tightly wrapped around coral. These brittle stars were pale, loose and dead. She also saw tube worms so full of oil they suffocated.

"This is Macondo oil on the bottom," Joye said as she showed slides. "This is dead organisms because of oil being deposited on their heads."

States ignored warnings on unemployment insurance

WASHINGTON (AP)—State officials had plenty of warning. Over the past three decades, two national commissions and a series of government audits sounded alarms about the dwindling amount of money states were setting aside to pay unemployment insurance to laid-off workers.

"Trust Fund Reserves Inadequate," federal auditors said in a 1988 report.

It's clear now the warnings were pretty much ignored. Instead, states kept whittling away at the trust funds, mostly by cutting unemployment in-

surance taxes at the behest of the business community. The low balances hastened insolvency when the recession hit, leading about 30 states to borrow \$41.5 billion from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits to their growing population of jobless.

The ramifications will be felt for years.

In the short term, states must find the money to pay interest on the loans. Generally, that involves a special tax on businesses until the loan is repaid. Some states could tap general

revenues, making it harder to pay for schools, roads and other state services.

In the long term, state will have to replenish their unemployment insurance programs. That typically leads to higher payroll taxes, leaving companies with less money to invest.

Past recessions have resulted in insolvencies. Seven states borrowed money in the early 1990s; eight did so as a result of the 2001 recession.

But the numbers are much worse this time because of the recession was more se-

vere and the funds already were low when it hit, said Wayne Vroman, an analyst at the Urban Institute, a liberal-leaning think tank based in Washington.

The Obama administration this month proposed giving states a waiver on the interest payments due this fall. Down the road, the administration would raise the amount of wages on which companies pay federal unemployment taxes. Many states probably would follow suit as a way of boosting depleted trust funds.

Businesses pay a federal and state payroll tax. The federal tax primarily covers administrative costs; the state tax pays for the regular benefits a worker gets when laid off. The Treasury Department manages the trust funds that hold each state's taxes.

Each state decides whether its unemployment fund has enough money. In 2000, total reserves for states and territories came to about \$54 billion. That dropped to \$38 billion by the end of 2007, just as the recession began.

Boss's kid throws off chain of command

QUESTION: My boss, who owns the business, recently added her daughter to our staff. Since "Tammy" would be reporting to me, she asked how I felt about this. I said I would treat her daughter just like any other employee. Unfortunately, I forgot to consider how she might react if I did that.

At first, Tammy and I had a good working relationship. However, I soon began receiving complaints from clients about mistakes that she had made. When I mentioned these issues to my boss, she seemed to understand and did not overreact.

The problems continued, so I finally had to call Tammy in for a performance discussion. She said I was picking on her and complained to her mother.

When I provided documentation of Tammy's errors, my boss became furious and said I should not be keeping a file on her daughter.

Now I'm not sure what to do. How can I manage Tammy without committing career suicide?

ANSWER: Supervising the boss's child is almost always a no-win proposition. When it comes to their offspring, even the most rational managers may have strong protective instincts that override their objectivity.

To walk this particular tightrope, you will need to talk with your boss before taking any action with Tammy. That way, you can gauge her reaction and modify your plans accordingly. Since your manager has shown signs of being a reasonable person, you might also consider

discussing the unique challenges posed by this family bond.

For example: "To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure how to handle supervising my boss's daughter. Because of Tammy's special connection to you, we obviously can't have the customary manager-employee relationship. Do you have any thoughts about the best way to approach this situation?"

Unfortunately, most managers who hire their relatives fail to develop a plan for keeping family relationships separate from business relationships.

■ ■ ■
Q: I was recently fired from a three-month contract job after one week. The human resources manager said I was "resistant to change," but I was actually very open to suggestions. However, the

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



person training me was a micromanager, and I was not comfortable with him.

I have been through several similar terminations, and I'm sick and tired of dealing with these childish issues. How do I keep this from happening again?

A: To answer your question, I need to tell you something you probably don't want to hear. People who repeatedly experience the same difficulty must consider their role in

creating the problem. For example, someone who has been married five times obviously has issues with selecting a mate or maintaining a relationship.

Since you have been fired from several jobs, it's time to recognize that you are the common factor in these failures. To break this destructive pattern and have a successful career, you must take a long, hard look in the mirror and identify the behaviors that are causing management to view you as a problem.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fuzzy compromise threatens relevance of G-20

PARIS (AP) -- The world's dominant economies on Saturday struck a watered down deal on how to smooth out trade and currency imbalances many say exacerbated the financial crisis, but the difficulty in getting vastly different economies like China and the United States on the same page doesn't bode well for the Group of 20 rich and developing countries as a forum for global decision making. G-20 finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Paris agreed on a list of technical indicators to track those imbalances—caused by some countries consuming more while others tend to hold on to their money—but left the more tricky questions of when those imbalances actually become dangerous and what to do to mitigate them for later. French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, whose country holds the G-20 presidency this year, said the all-night talks had been "tense" at times, indicating the clash in national interests between countries that find themselves on completely divergent growth trajectories after the 2008 financial crisis that plunged the world into its worst economic recession in 70 years.

AP source: Feds drop criminal probe against Mozilo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal prosecutors have ended a criminal investigation of Countrywide Financial Corp. co-founder Angelo Mozilo, a person close to the investigation said Friday. The federal official told The Associated Press that the probe launched in 2008 into the actions of the former chief executive of the housing giant during the mortgage meltdown has been closed with no indictments. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was never publicly announced, and the Department of Justice as a policy does not announce the closing of investigations. In October, Mozilo agreed to a \$67.5 million settlement to avoid civil trial on fraud and insider trading charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission, but prosecutors pursuing the criminal case against him found that his actions did not amount to crimes.

Freshmen spur GOP-run House on big spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The GOP-run House, jolted by freshmen determined to drive down the deficit, snatched \$61 billion from hundreds of federal programs while shielding coal companies, oil refiners and farms from new federal regulations. Passage early Saturday of the \$1.2 trillion bill, covering every Cabinet agency through Sept. 30, when the current budget year ends, sent the measure to the Senate, where it faces longer odds, and defied a White House veto threat. The largely party-line vote of 235-189 was the most striking victory to date for the 87 freshman Republicans elected last fall on a promise to attack the deficit and reduce the reach of government. Three Republicans joined Democrats in opposing the measure.

Nation

Largest protest yet fails to sway Wis. lawmakers

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Sometimes they cursed each other, sometimes they shook hands, sometimes they walked away from each other in disgust.

None of it—not the ear-splitting chants, the pounding drums or the back-and-forth debate between 70,000 protesters—changed the minds of Wisconsin lawmakers dug into a stalemate over Republican efforts to scrap union rights for almost all public workers.

“The people who are not around the Capitol square are with us,” said Rep. Robin Vos, a Republican from Rochester and co-chair of the Legislature’s budget committee. “They may have a bunch around the square, but we’ve got the rest on our side.”

After nearly a week of political chaos in Madison, during

which tens of thousands of pro-labor protesters turned the Capitol into a campsite that had started to smell like a locker room, supporters of Gov. Scott Walker came out in force Saturday.

They gathered on the muddy east lawn of the Capitol and were soon surrounded by a much larger group of union supporters who countered their chants of “Pass the bill! Pass the bill!” with chants of “Kill the bill! Kill the bill!”

“Go home!” union supporters yelled at Scott Lemke, a 46-year-old machine parts salesman from Cedarburg who wore a hard hat and carried a sign that read “If you don’t like it, quit” on one side, and “If you don’t like that, try you’re fired” on the other.

A lone demonstrator stood



Supporters of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker demonstrate during a rally outside the Wisconsin State Capitol on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 in Madison.

between the crowds, saying nothing and holding a sign: “I’m praying that we can all respect each other. Let’s try to understand each other.”

The Wisconsin governor, elected in November’s GOP wave that also gave control of the state Assembly and Senate to Republicans, set off the protests earlier this week by pushing ahead with a measure that would require government

workers to contribute more to their health care and pension costs and largely eliminate their collective bargaining rights.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said the crowds that have gotten bigger each day have yet to win over any member of his caucus.

“What they’re getting from individuals back home is stick to your guns, don’t let them get to you,” Fitzgerald said. “Every

senator I’ve spoken to today is getting that back home, which is awesome. It’s great to hear from people who are part of a rally ... (but) two people you meet at a fish fry or a person who comes up to you at a basketball game, those comments sink in.”

Fitzgerald and other Republicans say the concessions are needed to deal with the state’s projected \$3.6 billion budget shortfall and to avoid layoffs

of government workers. The move to restrict union rights has also taken hold in other states, including Tennessee and Indiana, where lawmakers have advanced bills to restrict bargaining for teachers’ unions.

The throngs of Walker supporters who arrived in Madison on Saturday for an afternoon rally organized by Tea Party Patriots, the movement’s largest umbrella group, and Americans for Prosperity, carried signs with a fresh set of messages: “Your Gravy Train Is Over ... Welcome to the Recession” and “Sorry, we’re late Scott. We work for a living.”

“We pay the bills!” tea party favorite Herman Cain yelled to cheers from the pro-Walker crowd. “This is why you elected Scott Walker, and he’s doing his job. ... Wisconsin is broke. My question for the other side is, ‘What part of broke don’t you understand?’”

Democrats in the Wisconsin Senate, short of the votes needed to keep Republicans from passing the so-called “budget repair” bill, fled the state on Thursday. They haven’t been seen since, and said Saturday they are more resolved than ever to stay away “as long as it takes” until Walker agrees to negotiate.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police identify officer slain by gunman in NY

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP)—A man who killed his wife and then fatally wounded a Poughkeepsie police officer was killed with his own gun during a struggle with police, authorities said Saturday. Poughkeepsie police identified the shooter as Lee Welch, 27, of Catskill. They said he was the only one who fired during a brief frenzy of violence midday Friday near the small city’s train station. The fatally wounded patrolman was John Falcone, an 18-year veteran of the force. Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik called Falcone “a great man and a great officer.” He was 44, and worked as a patrolman.

Windy, dry conditions lead to dozens of fires

WASHINGTON (AP)—Strong winds, mild temperatures and extremely dry conditions turned the mid-Atlantic region into a tinderbox Saturday, contributing to dozens of wildfires, snarling traffic and even toppling the National Christmas Tree. Maryland State Police shut down Interstate 95 in both directions in the Laurel area Saturday afternoon after a wildfire at a mulch plant jumped into the median of the highway. Prince George’s County firefighters were battling that blaze and several others, prompting Fire Chief Marc Bashoor to call every firefighter in the county to active duty and open the county’s emergency operations center. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

Family believes Ohio couple is with murder suspect

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A relative of a missing elderly couple said Saturday he be-

lieves they’re with a man suspected of murdering a woman found dead this week in the town where the couple lives. Richard Russell, 84, and his wife, Gladis, 85, haven’t been heard from since Wednesday, the day a woman was found dead in a home the Russells sold to Sam Littleton in 2009. Littleton was charged in absentia with the murder of 26-year-old Tiffany Brown, who is his girlfriend’s daughter. He also was charged with felonious assault, abuse of corpse and tampering with evidence in Brown’s death. Richard Russell’s great-nephew, Matthew Hall, said relatives are worried about the couple’s safety and don’t believe they would have ventured off on a long trip without informing someone in their tight-knit family.

NYC stabbing spree fits no mold; suspect indicted

NEW YORK (AP)—After slashing his stepfather to death with a kitchen knife, 23-year-old Maksim Gelman headed to the home of a female acquaintance, killed her mother, then waited patiently for hours for the young woman to arrive so he could kill her, too, police said. Initially, authorities thought it was the case of a jilted lover, angry at an ex-girlfriend. But it became clear later the killings—two of four that Gelman is accused of committing during a rampage that lasted 28 hours—had a much more complicated motive. Victim Yelena Bulchenko, 20, had a longtime boyfriend, and some of her friends didn’t know the suspect. They said the only relationship the Ukraine-born Gelman had with the woman was in his mind. If he snapped, they said, it was because he couldn’t have her.

Alleged shooter’s reclusive father retreats more

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Randy Loughner was always reclusive. But since his son’s alleged shooting rampage last month, the father has shut himself behind what one neighbor calls “an elaborate cage.”

In recent weeks, Loughner has built a substantial wooden enclosure, more than 6 feet high, obscuring his front door and windows. The four horizontal windows on the garage door have been papered over, the diamond-shaped openings atop the block wall to his back yard closed off with little plywood plugs.

Even the white mailbox out front has been replaced by a

heavy black steel one with a locked drawer.

“He was already secluded, so he was already set up for it, and used to it,” says Stephen Woods, who lives in the house to the left of Amy and Randy Loughners’. “So I imagine it’s not bothering him much. I don’t think his life has changed that much.”

But life has undoubtedly changed.

Until Jan. 8, the couple’s 22-year-old son, Jared, shared the modest beige block and brick home where the couple have lived for nearly three decades. Now, he sits in a cell, facing federal charges of attempting to assassinate U.S.

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and two of her aides. Six people, including a federal judge, were killed and 13 injured in the shooting during a Giffords meet-and-greet outside a Tucson grocery store, and more charges are expected.

Except for a brief written statement, the Loughners have kept their silence. They have not returned messages left by The Associated Press, and relatives have also refused to talk.

Some thought the couple had moved away from the 1,400-square-foot home where they raised their only child. But then neighbors began hearing the hammers and saws.

Ron Johnson has seen the husband coming and going in his El Camino, one of several vintage cars he owns.

“He comes out after dark,” says Johnson, who lives in the house directly across from the Loughners but who hasn’t even tried to speak with them in ages. “He comes out of that garage, closes it and scoots down that highway.”

Johnson says he tried to be friendly with the family. He would see Randy Loughner—who was once in construction but now appears not to work—watering his plants or sweeping the driveway and would try to strike up a conversation.

Cosmic census finds crowd of planets in our galaxy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have estimated the first cosmic census of planets in our galaxy and the numbers are astronomical: at least 50 billion planets in the Milky Way.

At least 500 million of those planets are in the not-too-hot, not-too-cold zone where life could exist. The numbers were extrapolated from the early results of NASA’s planet-hunting Kepler telescope.

Kepler science chief William Borucki says scientists took the number of planets they found in the first year of searching a small part of the

night sky and then made an estimate on how likely stars are to have planets. Kepler spots planets as they pass between Earth and the star it orbits.

So far Kepler has found 1,235 candidate planets, with 54 in the Goldilocks zone, where life could possibly exist. Kepler’s main mission is not to examine individual worlds, but give astronomers a sense of how many planets, especially potentially habitable ones, there are likely to be in our galaxy. They would use the one-four-hundredth of the night sky that Kepler

is looking at and extrapolate from there.

Borucki and colleagues figured one of two stars has planets and one of 200 stars has planets in the habitable zone, announcing these ratios Saturday at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference in Washington. And that’s a minimum because these stars can have more than one planet and Kepler has yet to get a long enough glimpse to see planets that are further out from the star, like Earth, Borucki said.

For example, if Kepler were

1,000 light years from Earth and looking at our sun and noticed Venus passing by, there’s only a one-in-eight chance that Earth would also be seen, astronomers said.

To get the estimate for the total number of planets, scientists then took the frequency observed already and applied it to the number of stars in the Milky Way.

For many years scientists figured there were 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, but last year a Yale scientist figured the number was closer to 300 billion stars.

Asia

Afghan attackers raid bank, kill 8

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen wearing explosives vests stormed a bank in eastern Afghanistan Saturday as government employees were waiting to be paid, killing at least eight people and wounding scores of others in a standoff punctuated by deadly explosions.

At least 48 people were being treated in the main hospital in Jalalabad, the site of the attack, hours after the midday siege on the Kabul Bank branch, said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary. Others had al-

ready been discharged. He said seven of the dead were Afghan police officers. Three others were also killed, he said, but investigators were trying to determine if two of them were the suicide attackers.

Gunmen launched the raid by firing on bank guards, then overpowering them to seize control of the bank, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Afghan security forces surrounded the building and heard an explosion inside, he said. That was followed by a gunbattle and another

blast, then further clashes between attackers and police. He put the death toll as high as 18.

The wounded included civilians, police and Afghan soldiers, said Dr. Saif ul-Rahman, a physician at the hospital. He said flying shrapnel and gunshots caused the injuries.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said was aimed at Afghan security forces lined up to collect their pay.

President Hamid Karzai and NATO condemned the attack.

Doctors remove knife from man's head after 4 years

BEIJING (AP)—Surgeons in southern China successfully removed a rusty, 4-inch (10-centimeter) knife from the skull of a man who said it had been stuck in there for four years, the hospital said Friday.

Li Fuyan, 30, had been suffering from severe headaches, bad breath and breathing difficulties but never knew the cause of his discomfort, said the senior official at the Yuxi City People's Hospital in Yunnan Province.

Li told doctors he had been stabbed in the lower right jaw by a robber four years ago and the blade broke off inside his head without anyone realizing it, said the director of the hospital's Communist Party committee's office who would only

give his surname, He.

Surgeons worked cautiously to remove the badly-corroded blade without shattering it, He said. The hospital's website also reported the successful surgery.

The case, which one of the doctors described as a "miracle," has been widely covered by the Chinese media and discussed on the Internet.

"We checked his mouth, but no wound or scar has been found. It is very strange as to how the blade got into his head," Xu Wen, deputy director of the hospital's stomatology department, told state broadcaster CCTV.

CCTV showed footage of the rusted knife and interviewed Li, who said: "As time passed, I used injections to kill the pain

in my head and ears. It has been four years already."

Dr. Eugene Flamm, chairman of neurosurgery at New York's Montefiore Medical Center, said X-ray images of the man's head posted on the hospital's website show the knife sitting behind the man's throat, having missed the carotid artery and other key structures.

"There are planes and spaces between important organs. That's how one does surgery—you dissect in those planes, move the trachea one way, the esophagus the other," he said.

"Maybe out of sheer luck this knife passed through" one such area, Flamm said, adding that he was still surprised at the time the blade supposedly spent in the man's body.

in the accident at an unmanned level crossing, the report said. Some of the injured were taken to hospital in serious condition, the agency said quoting unnamed police officials. In the second accident, police officer Ismail Hossain said five people died and 20 were injured Saturday in Jessore district, 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of the capital.

Thai police: Insurgent attacks in south wound 17

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Suspected Muslim insurgents detonated a car bomb and raked a karaoke restaurant with gunfire in Thailand's restive south, wounding at least 17 people in back-to-back attacks in the volatile region, police said Sunday. Both attacks took place late Saturday night in Narathiwat, one of three Muslim-majority provinces in the predominantly Buddhist country. Two female workers were wounded in the restaurant shooting, police Capt. Suchart Meelampong said. Half an hour later, a car bomb went off about 100 yards (meters) away, as the provincial governor and police were investigating the first attack. Fifteen people, including three boys and one girl, were injured in the blast and rushed to a hospital, Suchart said.

Pakistani Taliban claims it killed retired spy

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban claimed Saturday it shot dead a retired Pakistani spy who once mentored its Afghan brethren and sided with the U.S. against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The claim contradicted Pakistani government assertions in January that the ex-spy, Sultan Amir Tarar, died of a heart attack while being held captive by militants in northwest Pakistan. If true, the killing of a man who openly sympathized with Islamist extremists would also underscore the degree to which Pakistani Taliban groups are willing to take on the state.

World

Nearly 100 killed in Libyan crackdown

CAIRO (AP)—Libyan forces opened fire on mourners leaving a funeral for protesters Saturday in the flashpoint city of Benghazi, and a medical official said 15 people were killed, with bodies piling up in a hospital and doctors collapsing in grief at the sight of dead relatives.

The deaths pushed the overall estimated death toll to 99 in five days of unprecedented protests against the 42-year reign of Moammar Gadhafi. Government forces also wiped out a protest encampment and clamped down on Internet service throughout the North African nation.

As relatives buried their dead, they fell victim to a mixture of special commandos, foreign mercenaries and Gadhafi loyalists armed with knives, Kalashnikovs and even anti-aircraft missiles trying to quell the demonstrations, witnesses said.

"The blood of our martyrs is still leaking from coffins over the shoulders of the mourners," one female protester, who is also a lawyer, said while standing in front of about 20

coffins lined up in front of the Northern Court building in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city and the epicenter of the current unrest.

Before Saturday's violence, Human Rights Watch had estimated at least 84 people have been killed.

Hospitals ran low on medical supplies and were packed with bodies shot in the chest and head, said the medical official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of reprisal.

"Many of the dead and the injured are relatives of doctors here," the official, who provided the figure of 15 dead, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "They are crying, and I keep telling them to please stand up and help us."

Information is tightly controlled in Libya, where journalists cannot work freely, and some of the accounts could not be independently confirmed. Other information comes from opposition activists in exile.

Gadhafi has been trying to bring his country out of isola-

tion, announcing in 2003 that he was abandoning his program for weapons of mass destruction, renouncing terrorism and compensating victims of the 1986 La Belle disco bombing in Berlin and the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Those decisions opened the door for warmer relations with the West and the lifting of U.N. and U.S. sanctions, but Gadhafi continues to face allegations of human rights violations in the North African nation.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague called reports of the use of snipers and heavy weapons against demonstrators in Libya "clearly unacceptable and horrifying," and criticized restrictions on media access.

Before the Internet was shut down, videos posted on a Facebook page showed Libyan protesters smashing a stone representation of the "Green Book," which is Gadhafi's manifesto, as well as destroying billboards of the Libyan leader. Video of torched Revolutionary Committees buildings also were posted.

Bahrain opposition plots strategy for talks



Bahraini protesters celebrates at the Pearl roundabout after the military pulled out in Manama, Bahrain, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011.

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahrain's opposition leaders were mulling on Sunday on whether to join talks with the country's rulers after nearly a week of protests and deadly clashes.

A leader of the main Shiite political bloc, Abdul-Jalil Khalil, said the opposition is considering the monarchy's offer for dialogue, but he noted that no direct talks were yet under way.

Meanwhile, opposition groups are calling for a general strike to increase pressure on the rulers of the strategic Western ally - home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

Hundreds of protesters spent the night Saturday back in the landmark Pearl Square. They reoccupied the site after the withdrawal of security forces, which stormed into the protest camp Thursday in a siege that

killed five people.

The royal family, which was quick to use force earlier this week against demonstrators in the landmark square that has been the heart of the anti-government demonstrations, appeared to back away from further confrontation following international pressure from the West.

The demonstrators had sought to reproduce successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt in attempting to bring political change to Bahrain.

Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, appealed for calm and political dialogue in a brief address on state TV.

People circling through the square after it was reoccupied

clapped, whistled and wept. Some wore white sheets symbolizing their readiness for martyrdom, while others carried Bahraini flags, flowers and signs that said "Peaceful."

In apparent emulation to the semi-permanent camp that dominated downtown Cairo for weeks during the protests there, Bahrainis Saturday night built barriers around the square, set up a medical tent, a sound system and deployed lookouts to warn of approaching security forces.

President Barack Obama discussed the situation with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, asking him to hold those responsible for the violence accountable. He said in a statement that Bahrain must respect the "universal rights" of its people and embrace "meaningful reform."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam police blame human error in boat sinking

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese police say human error was to blame for the sinking of a tour boat in Ha Long Bay that killed a dozen sleeping passengers, including 11 foreign tourists. Quang Ninh provincial police spokesman Le Thanh Binh said Sunday that the boat's captain and the crew member in charge of the engine have been arrested. The initial police investigation showed that a valve that allows water to come into the boat to cool the engine was left open while the vessel was anchored for the night. The engine was turned off, preventing a pump from running to push the water out. Binh said that by the time the captain and crew woke up to find the boat filled with water, it was too late. It sank quickly around 5 a.m. Thursday.

Australian soldier and Afghan interpreter killed

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian soldier and an Afghan interpreter have been shot dead by insurgents in Afghanistan, bringing Australia's death toll from the conflict to 23. Australia's defense chief, Air Marshall Angus Houston, told reporters Sunday that 21-year-old Sapper Jamie Ronald Larcombe and the interpreter, whose name has not been released, were killed while on patrol in the Mirabad Valley in Uruzgan province Saturday night.

2 trains hit packed buses in Bangladesh; 13 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Two trains plowed into packed buses at unmanned railroad crossings in separate accidents on Saturday, killing at least 13 people and injuring 45 others, police and news reports said. Police recovered eight bodies from the wreckage of one bus in Comilla district, 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of the capital Dhaka, United News of Bangladesh news agency reported. Another 25 people were injured

Focus

Egypt revolt becomes global case study

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO (AP)—It seems naive to hope the fallout from cataclysmic events in the Middle East and North Africa can spill beyond the region and stir distant, repressed populations with no cultural or historical affinity. Yet successful uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia have captivated dissidents and activists around the world who have campaigned in vain for radical change, in some cases for decades.

This week, South Korean activists even hoisted helium balloons into the air and watched them drift into North Korea with a message attached: discard your leaders, just as the Egyptians did.

“The Egyptian people rose up in a revolution to topple a 30-year dictatorship,” said one of the leaflets coasting over the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas. “The North Koreans too must revolt against a 60-year-old dictatorship.”

The strain of poverty and inefficient government in North Korea, which has been targeted by international sanctions, matches or exceeds that of Arab autocracies currently buffeted by street protests. Its human rights record, along with those of Myanmar and Zimbabwe, is routinely condemned in international forums.

But there are no clear signs that these countries will face the same kind of upheaval sweeping Bahrain, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere.

“Everything depends on local conditions,” said Charles Ries, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based RAND Corp. who recently oversaw economic issues while stationed at the American Embassy in Baghdad.

North Korea, after all, has a cult-like leadership rooted in its World War II-era separation from the south; Myanmar brutally stamped out revolts in 1988 and 2007; and Zimbabwe has a shaky coalition government and plans elections later this year.

Dissidents and authoritarian governments on other continents are undoubtedly reviewing the playbook of their counterparts in the Middle East—social media networking for the protesters, and hasty reform pledges and thugs in civilian clothes for the leaders. Unrest even spread to Djibouti, a city-state across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen, where protesters reportedly clashed with security forces on Friday.

Fear of bloody retaliation, sharp curbs on information, tactical decisions to avoid a showdown and the lack of a trigger—severe food shortages or a fuel price hike, for example—are deterrents to popular revolt in repressive systems.

Protesters in Egypt and the region used Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to organize, and benefited from pan-Arab media outlets such as Al-Jazeera television that spread word of the uprisings.

But there is no sign of an organized opposition in North Korea, where most people do not have access to outside TV and radio, or the Internet. The leadership had long-standing ties to ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. On Jan. 23, two days before protests broke out in Egypt, ruler Kim Jong Il, who rarely meets foreigners, hosted the head of Cairo-based Orascom Telecom, which built a 3G telephone service network in North Korea.

Dissidents in military-ruled Myan-

mar, also known as Burma, want to know more about what happened in Egypt despite a state media blackout.

“Everyone is trying to find out information and is interested,” said Mark Farmaner of the Burma Campaign UK, which is based in London. Dissidents are “talking about whether they can learn anything from this, and what examples there are,” he said.

However, Farmaner said there no signs that anti-government groups want to try a revolt similar to the 18-day uprising in Egypt, where a military council took power and promised to oversee a democratic transition. The military sided with protesters in pushing out Mubarak.

In Myanmar, “the army has always been prepared to shoot when it’s ordered to,” Farmaner said. “There’s no separation of president and military in any way.”

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has called for dialogue with Myanmar’s leaders, reflecting concern that a popular upheaval that could end in bloodshed.

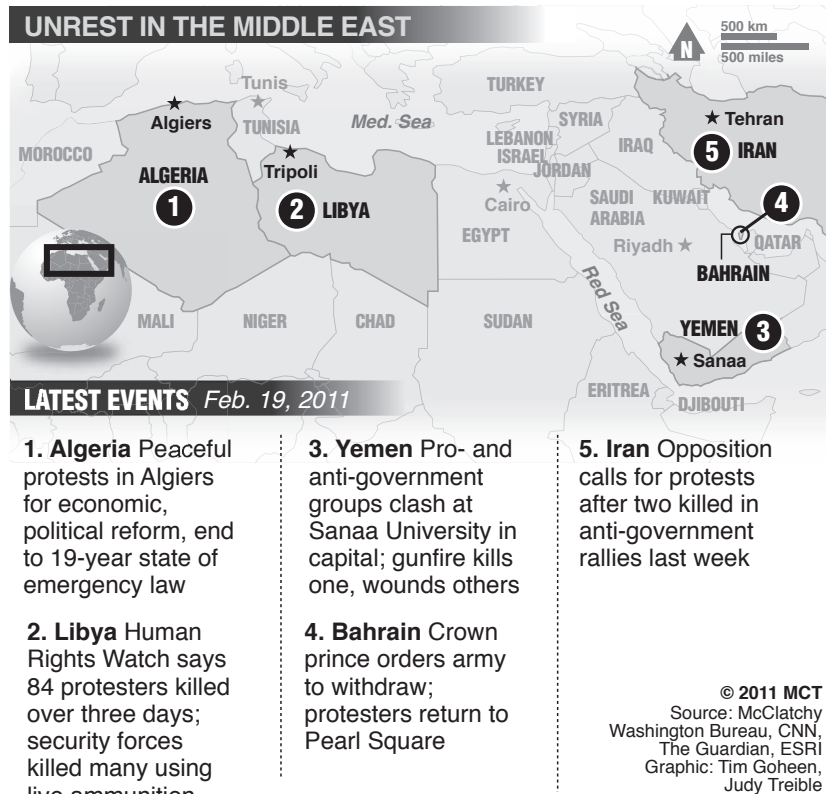
“We are interested in the parallels in Egypt and the parallels with Burma but the institutions are not exactly the same. I think protests are one way of bringing about change but not necessarily the best way,” she told the BBC in early February, before Mubarak was ousted.

There are plenty of precedents for politically potent ideas taking flight across continents. Ries, the former U.S. diplomat, said European thinkers provided some intellectual backbone for the American Revolution, which did the same for the French Revolution, which in turn inspired Haitian slaves in their revolt against French colonizers, all in the space of a few decades in the late 18th century.

“You look at other places where



AP
Pro-Mubarak demonstrators stand under a poster of the former president in the Mohandessin neighborhood of Cairo, Egypt Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.



there are huge numbers of people who have little to lose by banding together and applying these new techniques,” Ries said of today’s uprisings. “It also exposes, in a sense, the impotence of repression against huge numbers.”

Some Arab countries, however, have not yielded to protests, responding instead with deadly force. Prof. Hurst Hannum, an international law expert at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, cautioned against predictions of a worldwide “outbreak of ‘democracy.’”

In an e-mail, he recalled the “rather premature” thesis of Francis Fukuyama, a U.S. academic whose 1992 book, “The End of History and the Last Man,” declared that Western-style democracy would prevail over other systems in the wake of communism’s fall.

On Feb. 3, state-run radio in Zimbabwe accused Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, a former opposition leader, of trying to spark anti-government uprisings similar to those in Tunisia and Egypt. Tsvangirai said before he joined

the governing coalition that he would not lead his followers into danger and that he stood for peaceful change.

State radio is controlled by loyalists of President Robert Mugabe, who has been in power for three decades.

Political scientist John Makumbe wrote an essay titled “Is Egypt possible in Zimbabwe?” in which he speculated that the military would crack down on any revolt, but he drew inspiration from the uprisings to the north.

“Thank you, Tunisia and Egypt, for making us realize what is possible with people power,” he wrote on the website of Nehanda Radio, an independent station.

The North Korean system, which survived a famine in the 1990s, has long defied predictions of collapse. Kim Jong Il, who inherited power from his father, has tightened his grip with perks for the military and a propaganda machine that seeks to rouse national pride by demonizing declared enemies.

North Korean state media have not reported events in Egypt, and it is doubtful that the leaflets of the South Korean activists, who also send short-wave radio broadcasts to the north, will reach or convince many people. But they draw a clear dynastic parallel—some images show Mubarak and his son, Gamal, once thought to be his successor, and Kim Jong Il and his third son and heir, Kim Jong Un.

Paik Hak-soon, an analyst at the Sejong Institute research center near Seoul, speculated that top government and trade leaders in North Korea were “definitely aware” of what is happening in Egypt. But a similar uprising is unlikely, he said.

“There are so many differences in terms of ideology, in terms of power structure, in terms of domestic and external relationships,” Paik said. “North Korea is basically an isolated, socialist regime, protected by a most reliable and most supportive big power, China.”

China itself portrayed the protests as the kind of chaos that comes with Western-style democracy, underscoring how wary it is of any potential source of unrest that might threaten its power. As Mubarak’s hold slipped, Chinese censors blocked the ability to search the term “Egypt” on microblogging sites, and user comments that drew parallels to China were deleted from Internet forums. In Myanmar, many people with access to satellite dishes followed the historic events in Egypt, quietly wishing for the same thing.

“Tears welled in my eyes when I watched the Egyptians, overjoyed after Mubarak left. I want to tell them that your fight has paid off but we don’t know where our future lies,” said a 53-year-old private tutor in Yangon, Myanmar’s biggest city. The tutor spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the authorities.

Health & Fitness

Reservists pave way for achieving fitness goals

By SPC. REGINA ANDRES
302ND QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

TANAPAG, Saipan—Patriotic at heart and a local boy to

boot, Manuel Villagomez has always dreamed of being in the Army, but his love for food and what he thought would be killer physical training kept him from

truly pursuing his dream. With an initial weight of 243 lbs, Villagomez found it difficult to walk and running was almost impossible.

"I passed the ASVAB [Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery] test with a high score, but I just couldn't make the weight requirement to proceed with the enlistment process," said Villagomez.

Given a meal plan, a workout routine, and the desire to achieve success, Villagomez not only dropped 50 lbs and shaved 10 minutes off his run time, but was able to realize his dream of enlisting in the U.S. Army Reserves on Dec. 1, 2010, with the 368th Military Police Company.

"I feel stronger than ever before. I was afraid at first, but I was promised that as long as I show up and have the desire to improve, I will get there. After only a month of training, I feel even better and I'm confident that in April when I leave for basic training I will be ready," said Villagomez.

Villagomez is one of several individuals who participate daily in physical training sessions conducted by soldiers of the 302nd Quartermaster Company's Detachment 1.

"The program started because we sponsored soldiers into the U.S. Army Reserve and they needed to meet Army height and weight requirements. It worked out so well that we extended the invitation to all soldiers who want to get in shape and stay healthy," said Spc. Joseph P. Villacrusis, Det. 1, 302nd Quartermaster Company.

According to Villacrusis, the fitness routine combines cardio and strength training with meal plans. This goal-oriented approach is tailored to meet individual needs. The sessions are held Monday to Friday, 5pm to 6:30pm.

"Sessions are free and our only rule is that once you commit, you show up on time, all the time," said Villacrusis.

The physical fitness ses-

sions are not just beneficial for those getting in shape to join the service, but also for current soldiers who need to meet and maintain the Army standard for height and weight.

"I have been with the program for the past month and I have since passed my Army Physical Fitness Test with flying colors. I still have a lot of room for improvement, and that is what keeps me coming," said Pfc. Lawrence Larin.

Soldiers and their family members who aren't interested in the joining the 302nd QM Co.'s fit-

ness group are welcome to use the Army Reserve gym. The gym is open to all military identification card holders and is open from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, unless alternate arrangements are made in advance.

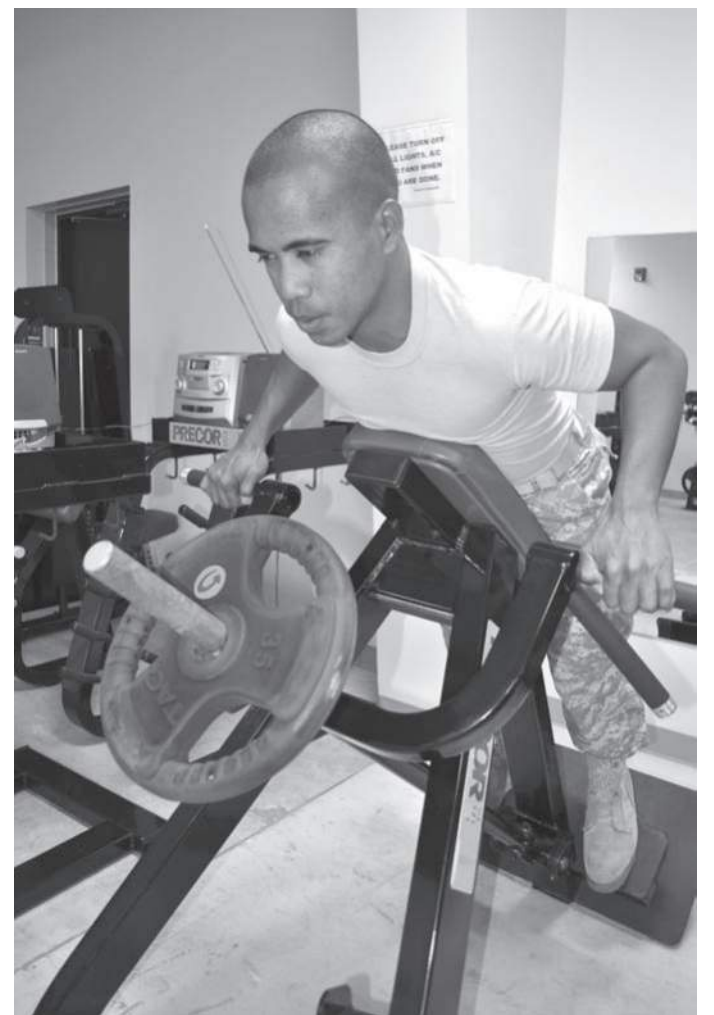
The facility is located within the Army Reserve Center, which is off of Industrial Drive in Tanapag.

For more information on the workout sessions, email randres_689@yahoo.com, or contact the Det. 1 of the 302nd Quartermaster Company at (670) 322-6670.



SPC. REGINA ANDRES

Pfc. Lawrence Larin leads a physical fitness session at the Army Reserve gym of the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Industrial Drive in Tanapag. The workout sessions are held Monday to Friday starting at 5pm.



SPC. REGINA ANDRES

Spc. Carson Tarkong, a carpentry and masonry specialist with the 797th Engineer Company, takes full advantage of the weight lifting equipment at the Army Reserve gym. "I take every opportunity to work out and having the gym here really helps with my physical training required by the Army," said Tarkong.

Clue to diabetes, cancer seen in short Ecuadoreans

WASHINGTON (AP)—In remote villages of Ecuador, scientists have found a population that may hold clues to fighting diabetes and cancer—people with a type of dwarfism who almost never get those diseases.

It turns out that a gene mutation that stunts their growth also may block cell changes that lead to these diseases of aging.

Researchers tracked the health of 99 Ecuadoreans with what's called Laron syndrome. Most stand shorter than 4 feet because the gene mutation prevents their bodies from properly using growth hormone.

That alters the activity of other hormones, including insulin-like growth factor or IGF-1—a substance that laboratory studies suggest might be manipulated to lengthen lifespan.

So scientists were interested in seeing how people with Laron syndrome fare.

Over 22 years, this population experienced no diabetes and only one non-lethal case of cancer, Ecuadorean endocrinologist Jaime Guevara-Aguirre and University of Southern California cell biologist Valter Longo reported. Their research appears in Wednesday's issue of the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

The absence of diabetes was true even though the Laron population tends to be heavier than other Ecuadoreans, and being overweight raises the risk for diabetes.

In contrast, 1,600 of the group's normal-height relatives who lived in the same towns experienced rates of

those diseases typical of Ecuador—5 percent got diabetes and 17 percent got cancer.

However, the Laron patients didn't live longer than their taller relatives. Their main causes of death were accidents and alcohol-related illnesses, Longo said.

For their research, scientists mixed components from the Laron participants' blood with human cells. Longo's team found those components protected against types of cellular damage and altered some genes that laboratory studies have linked to life extension.

Next, Longo wants to test if there are safe ways to use medications that block growth hormone activity in ways that might protect against diseases of aging. But that research will take years.

Personal Trainer

Understanding shin pain

"Shin splints" and other pains in the front of the lower leg are usually caused by overuse – a cumulative process of stress and inflammation.

2. Medial stress syndrome
Inflammation of muscles on inside of tibia

3. Compartment syndrome
Inflammation of muscles that point foot toward body

4. Hairline stress fracture
in one of lower leg's bones

Several possible causes

1. Over-pronation, or inward rolling, of foot each time it strikes ground

Some ways to prevent shin pain

- Begin exercise sessions gradually
- Warm up well and stretch muscles in calf and front of leg

• If you develop shin pain, stop running until it goes away; continuing to stress overused muscles just prolongs their recovery

- Wear well-cushioned shoes
- Run on soft surfaces such as coated outdoor tracks or indoor wooden tracks

© 2011 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap

Source: McKesson Clinical Reference Systems Sports Medicine Advisor

Life & Style

Stars share how they survive so many awards shows

By **SANDY COHEN**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Getting through Hollywood's awards season is no easy feat. It looks like a glamorous celebration on TV, but awards are serious business here.

Nominees, especially the famous ones, face a repeated challenge: They must look gorgeous and be gracious again and again as they win or lose the most coveted honors in their business in front of a worldwide audience. Plus, there are so many parties, so many interviews, so many events and appearances and screenings and outfits that, for the leading nominees, the first two months of the year almost become one flashbulb-illuminated, Champagne-soaked blur.

With the Oscars around the corner capping off two months of glittery celebration, here's a look at stars' views on awards season and how they're surviving:

■ Oscar winner Ben Affleck says this time of year is a strange one that stretches beyond the stars. "The notion of awards

season, it is like you have spring, summer, fall, winter and awards season. It somehow has gotten firmly entrenched in our kind of culture in a way that seems to have expanded a bit over the years. I don't know if I could give anybody advice. It is a difficult thing to navigate."

■ Supporting actress nominee Amy Adams, who has been up for an Oscar twice before, has some practical advice: "Hydrate. That is my key this year, drink a lot of water. It sounds silly, but that is the first thing that came to mind. Try to get a lot of sleep and hang out with your friends as much as you can. Be in the moment."

■ Geoffrey Rush is practical, too. "I think, you know, make sure you have a couple of poached eggs on toast and maybe a small shot of vodka on the day."

■ Helena Bonham Carter has done it before with style. "I think you've got to pace yourself, and also say no a lot. Because it is a bit of an onslaught. It's an onslaught, so you've got to keep an even keel and keep a



In this Feb. 7, 2011 file photo, Amy Adams arrives for the 30th Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif.

sense of proportion. And maybe I'll try wearing matching shoes this time. I was wearing mismatching shoes on the Globes, and apparently there was horror at this major fashion misdemeanor. ... So I don't know, just keep a sense of humor and enjoy it."

■ Australian actress Jacki Weaver, nominated for her supporting role in "Animal Kingdom," offers this international perspective: "It's a juggernaut. It's a huge military operation. ... This is a billion dollar industry in America. It gives millions of people work. It is taken very seriously. Whereas we are a small country in Australia—only 22 million people. We make a

handful of films every year."

■ Kevin Spacey celebrates, win or lose. "I've only been to the Academy Awards nominated twice and I've won twice. That's a very different circumstance than for example ... going to the Golden Globes, having been nominated six times and not winning again. How do you deal with that? You go to the bar and you end up hang-

ing out with all your friends and your colleagues and people you don't see for a long time because that's what you do at the Globes. There's no bar at the Oscars, which is something they really ought to reconsider."

■ "The Social Network" screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, who has won six Emmys for "The West Wing" and is up for his first Oscar, says he'll just take it all in. "I just keep my head down and remember that, you know, this is all fun. And enjoy every minute of it with the guys I made the movie with."

■ Trent Reznor, who's nominated for his score for "The Social Network," says he used to stay away from awards shows when he was with Nine Inch Nails, but he's going to the Oscars. "I've also realized that the whole experience is worth allowing myself to kind of take a pause and experience it. My nature is to isolate in a room and just work. As I've gotten a little more comfortable in my own skin, I'm forcing myself to kind of be in the moment and make the best of it, and it's actually been pretty enjoyable. Sometimes in an absurd way, and a very surreal way, it's been interesting."

Never say never: Bieber wins MVP at celeb game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber finally won a trophy in L.A.

The teen singing sensation, who was shut out at the Grammys, was chosen most valuable player despite playing for the losing team in the NBA All-Star celebrity game on Friday night.

Bieber had eight points, four assists and two rebounds for the West team, which lost 54-49 to the East at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen led the Magic Johnson-coached East team with 17 points in a game whose defensive highlight might have been Pippen's third-quarter block of Bieber.

The vertically challenged Bieber scampered up and down the court, his famous shaggy 'do bouncing with every step as girls shrieked at the sight.

"He has the softest hair," marveled former Los Angeles Laker Rick Fox, who patted his West teammate Bieber on the head during the game.

Wearing a black T-shirt under his red-and-white jersey, Bieber spent most of the game hitching up his shorts that fell well below the knee. His pregame stretching included trying, but failing, to touch his toes.

Bieber showed off some slick moves, dribbling behind his back, and driving and dishing to taller teammate and ESPN analyst Jalen Rose. Bieber fed A.C. Green for the game's first basket, and the singer later hit a 3-pointer.

"I'm just running back and forth," Bieber said during an in-

game interview. "I'm controlling this whole team. I'm just kidding."

With actor Jamie Foxx and Lakers star Lamar Odom watching, Bieber missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it with 30 seconds to go. Afterward, the 16-year-old was hurried off the court by burly security guards.


Bieber's week began when he lost out on his two Grammy

nominations at Staples Center. But things picked up with another TV guest appearance on "CSI" and his "Never Say Never" concert movie was No. 2 at the box office.

Bieber's celebrity teammates were Zac Levi of "Chuck," R&B singer Trey Songz, rapper Romeo Miller, and Rob Kardashian, whose sister Khloe is married to Odom.

TENTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of



Esterlita Sablan Camacho

"Esther"

We the family, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the Tenth Year Death Anniversary of our beloved mother and sister.

Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00PM at St. Jude Church, beginning Thursday, February 17 through Friday, February 24, 2011.

On the final day on Friday, February 25, 2011, Mass will be at 6:00PM at St. Jude Church.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children & Family

Message of Appreciation

On the passing of our beloved

†Emilia Villagomez Camacho (Emy)

There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain and sense of loss that is felt upon the death of one's wife and mother. Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words, and gracious support of family and friends have been a balm to our sorrow and a source of strength. Your presence and prayers at the nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will be remembered always. May our loving and kind Lord richly bless all of you and keep you in his heart.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

**Juan Aguon Camacho,
Erin Angela V. Camacho,
Warren F. Villagomez,
Michelle V. Guerrero,
and Family**



Iranian film wins at Berlin film festival

BERLIN (AP)—Iranian director Asghar Farhadi's "Nader and Simin, A Separation," a drama that centers on a disintegrating marriage, won the best movie honor and swept the acting awards at the Berlin film festival on Saturday.

A six-member jury led by actress Isabella Rossellini handed the movie the top Golden Bear prize and its ensemble cast, led by Peyman Moadi and Leila Hatami, both the best actor and the best actress awards.

"I never would have thought that I would win this prize," Farhadi said as he collected the Golden Bear.

He added that it offers "a very good opportunity to think of the people of my country—the country I grew up in, the country where I learned my stories—a great people."

The film highlights a clash between traditional and modern ways of living and thinking, as well as class differences.

It chronicles the events that follow a wife's unsuccessful petition for a divorce, which she seeks when her husband refuses to leave Iran with her and her daughter. He worries about

leaving behind his father, who suffers from Alzheimer's.

The wife then moves out and the man hires a pregnant, pious young woman who agrees to take care of his father, without telling her husband. One afternoon, a blazing argument is followed by the woman suffering a miscarriage—set-

ting off a chain of events that shakes the family.

Iran has been in the spotlight at the Berlin festival because the jury's official seventh member, Iranian director Jafar Panahi, was unable to come after being sentenced to six years in jail on charges of working against the ruling system.

"I would like to recall Jafar Panahi—I really think his problem will be solved, and I would like him to stand here next year," said Farhadi, speaking through an interpreter.

Farhadi was honored as best director in Berlin two years ago for his previous movie, "About Elly."



Iranian actors Peyman Moadi and Ali-Asghar Shahbazi and Czech actor Babak Karimi, from left, pose with their Silver Bear for "Best Actor" in the Iranian film "Nader And Simon, A Separation" by Asghar Farhadi during the awards ceremony of the international Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011.

This year's best director honor went to Germany's Ulrich Koehler for "Sleeping Sickness," a film about an aid worker long based in Africa and his increasingly alienated wife.

Hungarian director Bela Tarr's starkly minimalist, black-and-white "The Turin Horse," the story of a farmer and his horse, won a runner-up Silver Bear.

Tarr, a veteran arthouse filmmaker, insisted that it would be his last movie. "I believe that, in this film, everything comes together," he said after the award ceremony.

Argentine-born first-time director Paula Markovitch's "The Prize," an autobiographical film

set in Argentina during the military dictatorship of the 1970s, won two prizes for outstanding artistic achievement.

They went to Wojciech Staron for his camerawork and Barbara Enriquez for the production design.

American director Joshua Marston and co-scriptwriter Andamion Murataj took the best script award for "The Forgiveness of Blood," a drama set in Albania.

The festival's Alfred Bauer prize for innovation went to German director Andres Veiel's "If Not Us, Who," a movie about the early years of some of the far-left Red Army Faction's leading figures.

Memorable TV characters who share names with presidents

By ANDY EDELSTEIN
NEWSDAY

Let's celebrate Presidents Day by offering up this list of memorable TV characters whose surnames (and in one case, entire name) are shared with five of our chief executives:

- George Jefferson (Sherman Hemsley)—Curmudgeonly dry-cleaning magnate who moved on up to a "deluxe apartment in the sky."
- Freddy "Boom Boom" Washington (Lawrence Hil-

ton-Jacobs)—The hippest of the sweatshops on "Welcome Back, Kotter."

- Harry S. Truman (Michael Ontkean)—Tight-lipped sheriff who led the investigation of Laura Palmer's murder on "Twin Peaks."
- Oscar Madison (Jack Klugman)—Neatness-challenged half of "The Odd Couple."
- Lou Grant (Ed Asner)—Hard-bitten TV news producer-editor on "The Mary Tyler Moore" and his eponymous drama.

Aide planning tell-all about time with Palin

By BECKY BOHRER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—One of Sarah Palin's trusted advisers is planning a tell-all memoir, drawing upon thousands of personal e-mails during his time with the former Alaska governor to paint what his agent calls an expose of the inner workings of her operation.

Frank Bailey rose from a campaign volunteer to administration official and figure in the "Troopergate" scandal that fixated the public's attention during Palin's vice presidential bid in 2008. A preliminary draft of the unpublished book, tentatively called "Blind Allegiance to Sarah Palin: A Memoir of our Tumultuous Years,"

was leaked to reporters, with excerpts making the rounds on the Internet.

Messages to a Palin aide and attorney weren't immediately returned Friday.

Ken Morris, a California-based writer who worked with Bailey on the manuscript, said in an e-mail that the material is preliminary, subject to copy-right protections and not authorized for use.

The New York-based Carol Mann Agency, in an e-mail promoting the manuscript, said the "revelations and insights" that Bailey offers "are more necessary than ever, as the public will seek to learn as much as possible about the woman who

seems to have her sights set on the national stage."

The agency referred calls to Morris, who said that he, Bailey and co-writer Jeanne

Devon did "tons of research" for the book, which still has no publisher. Devon, an Alaska blogger, is a frequent critic of Palin.

Morris said he believes the manuscript paints an accurate portrait of Palin but declined to elaborate. "I think we should leave it at that," he said.

The manuscript, which Morris said is subject to change and "may not materially reflect the eventual product," states that Palin, before resigning partway

through her first term, wrote to Bailey and another aide, "I hate this damn job."

This isn't Bailey's first attempt at getting published. He has been working on a book since at least 2009, when Palin resigned. At least one previous effort fizzled. Bailey left state government shortly after Palin.

Bailey was embroiled in an investigation of Palin's firing of her police commissioner over allegations he wouldn't fire a trooper who had a bitter divorce with Palin's sister. Bailey, in a recording made public, questioned a state trooper official about why Palin's former brother-in-law was still employed.

Once Palin's friend, Bailey is now among those criticizing her.



Palin

Jackson's estate earned \$310 million since death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Despite more than \$310 million in earnings since his death, Michael Jackson's lavish spending habits still haunt his legacy and have required lawyers to create new deals and restructure old debts, court records show.

Jackson died more than \$400 million in debt, and attorneys are still trying to resolve several pending lawsuits, according to documents filed Thursday by his estate.

The report also states Jackson's estate spent \$159 million between the singer's June 2009 death and the end of 2010, with some of the money used for his funeral, burial and to buy the

Jackson family's home in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

According to the filing, many of Jackson's debts, including his interests in a music catalog that features works by The Beatles and other top-earning musicians, have been restructured.

While Jackson's attorneys have resolved numerous debts and lawsuits, several cases are still unresolved, including disputes over Jackson's "Thriller" music video.

Since soon after the pop singer's death at age 50, attor-

neys began working on deals to begin to restore luster to Jackson's legacy, which had been tarnished even though he was acquitted of child molestation charges.

Projects have included the release of "This Is It," a film using rehearsal footage from Jackson's planned series of comeback shows; new music and video games; and the rerelease of the singer's autobiography.

An audit of the singer's earnings for already released music is under way and could yield more profits, the filings state.

Experts say Jackson's estate earnings are likely to rival those of another music superstar, Elvis Presley.

Most of the earnings benefit Jackson's three young children and his mother, Katherine, who is their guardian. Renovations on her home, valued at more than \$4.1 million, are ongoing.

A judge will review the financial report, which is the first complete accounting of the King of Pop's financial affairs after his death. That hearing is scheduled for May 5.

Jackson's estate attorneys say the judge should expect to retain oversight of the estate for at least another year after that.



Jackson

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Lassiter is no longer "in a relationship."

Let's clarify that: Lassiter, a media adviser for political campaigns who lives in Cherry Hill, N.J., is still with his partner of nearly eight years, Greg Lehmkuh. But since Thursday, when Facebook expanded its romantic-status options, Lassiter's profile there echoes his relationship's legal status: "Domestic partnership."

It may not be a life-altering change. After all, you can call yourself anything you want on a social network. And Facebook is merely that.

But, Lassiter notes: "I'm no different from all those other Facebook users whose identity is tied up with their Facebook pages, for better or for worse."

And so, he says: "It's high time. It's an affirming gesture. It's sort of one tiny step for gays, but a giant leap for gay rights."

Facebook's addition of civil unions and domestic partnerships to the list of relationships its users can pick from came after talks with gay rights organizations, including GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The social network has "sent a clear message in support of gay and lesbian couples to users across the globe," said

GLAAD's president, Jarrett Barrios. "By acknowledging the relationships of countless loving and committed same-sex couples in the U.S. and abroad, Facebook has set a new standard of inclusion for social media."

He added that the new status options, available to Facebook users in the U.S., Canada, Britain, France and Australia, will serve as an important reminder that legal marriage is not an option for gay couples in most states.

Only Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. allow same-sex marriages. Hawaii will soon become the seventh state to permit civil unions or similar legal recognition for gay couples.

Of course, there's also a Facebook option to say "It's complicated"—and that's exactly how some users felt about the new changes. Because, for people both gay and straight, more options mean more decisions to make: What exactly is my relationship, and what should I call it?

"You go into a store and there are 27 kinds of soda, and sometimes it would be easier if there were just Coke and Pepsi," explains Erik Rueter, who works in marketing at an educational nonprofit institution in Pittsburgh.



Cee Lo rocks NBA All-Star festivities in L.A.

Cee Lo Green, left, has a talk with Spike Lee at the NBA basketball All-Star weekend, on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fresh off his duet with Gwyneth Paltrow at the Grammy Awards, Cee Lo returned to Staples Center for NBA All-Star Saturday night.

The singer-songwriter performed the cleaned-up version of his hit “Forget You,” the same song he, Paltrow and Jim Henson’s Puppets did on the Grammys last Sunday.

Wearing a bright green sweat-suit accented with rhinestones, Cee Lo arrived near the stage on the back of a golf cart, talking on his cell phone. After

performing with his all-female band, he sat courtside to watch the slam dunk contest.

Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers had the crowd oohing when he dunked over a car to win the title.

Among the other celebs watching the shooting stars and skill challenge were John Legend and girlfriend-model Chrissy Teigen, Terrell Owens, Spike Lee, boxer Floyd Mayweather, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Lenny Kravitz, Jimmy Jam, Cuba Gooding Jr., Chris Tucker, and

Penny Marshall.

Wearing a Boston Red Sox cap, Mark Wahlberg sat courtside with his son. NBA great Bill Russell and Shaquille O’Neal of the Boston Celtics were there, too.

Keri Hilson sang the U.S. national anthem, while Canadian R&B/soul singer Aion Clarke performed the Canadian anthem.

Hip-hop group Far East Movement kicked off the slam dunk contest with their single “Rocketeer.”

Elizabeth Taylor improving but still hospitalized



In this Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008 file photo, Elizabeth Taylor speaks during the 26th Annual Macy’s Passport to Fashion gala in Santa Monica, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor’s health is improving, but the Oscar winner is still hospitalized in Los Angeles.

A spokeswoman for the 78-year-old actress says Taylor “has continued to show great improvement, and her family and friends are very pleased with her progress.”

Publicist Jamie Cadwell said Friday that Taylor will remain under observation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center “for the time being.” She was admitted more than a week ago.

Taylor is being treated for symptoms of congestive heart failure, a condition she disclosed in November 2004.

Congressman’s brief bout of ‘Bieber fever’ cured

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—For a short time, they seemed so simpatico: the idealistic congressman, the teenage singing sensation, their shared disappointment in the U.S. health care system.

Now, though, Connecticut Democrat Christopher Murphy and Justin Bieber, the famously coiffed Pied Piper of love-struck girls worldwide, have parted ways philosophically over the Biebs’ opposition to abortion.

Their split is less puzzling to some observers than the fact that Murphy, 37, a three-term U.S. representative, even invoked the pop star as a voice of authority in the first place.

No worries, Murphy said Friday: He doesn’t have Bieber fever, nor is he taking public policy directives from pop culture.

He’s just using Twitter and Facebook to stay connected with constituents and show them he’s a regular guy, he said, “even one who is probably too plugged in to pop culture.”

“I care deeply about public policy, but I’m not afraid to show that I also know something about things like sports and music, and yes, even Justin Bieber,” Murphy said.

Like many of today’s flare-and-fizzle connections, their one-sided bromance played out electronically with a few Twitter messages and hashtags, or short phrases and words used to categorize posts

according to their topics.

Murphy, who authors his own tweets, wrote Thursday morning: “Bieber on health care” and added the hashtag, “(hash)mycaseoffieberfever,” plus a link to Bieber’s comments in a recent Rolling Stone interview.

The Canadian-born singer called the U.S. health care system “evil” for the medical debt it places on some patients. But in the same interview, Bieber also mentioned his opposition to abortion, which he considers to be “like killing a baby.”

Less than an hour after his first tweet about Bieber’s health care concerns, Murphy was back on Twitter. His chagrined comment: “Oh wait ... just heard what Biebs said about abortion. Ugh.”

Thus ended the brief affinity, though it’s unclear whether Bieber even knew about it, between launching a world tour, appearing at the recent Grammy Awards, guest-starring on “CSI” and promoting his new movie. A representative for him did not immediately respond to an e-mail Friday seeking comment.

The incident has been a source of amusement and a little eye-rolling among some observers.

Connecticut Republican Party Chairman Chris Healy admitted that, yes, politicians from both sides of the aisle of-

ten try to paint themselves as hip and attuned to pop culture.

But linking your political ideology to that of a 16-year-old singer whose fans, calling themselves the “Beliebers,” swoon and scream at the sight of his face?

“Which voters are Chris Murphy trying to reach now, 14-year-old girls?” Healy asked. “It’s amazing what some politicians will do to try to tell the public, ‘Hey, I’m cool, I’m paying attention to the zeitgeist.’ It’s kind of funny how it blows up in your face.”

Murphy’s tweets prompted Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, a Republican whose city is in the congressman’s district, to post a few of his own: “I think I have Bieber fever,” followed by, “Never mind, it’s just an al-



Bieber

Tell-all on Assange out in March

NEW YORK (AP)—More leaks about the WikiLeaks founder will soon be published.

The Cogito Media Group is releasing “Julian Assange—WikiLeaks: Warrior for Truth,” an unauthorized biography by Sophie Radermecker and Valerie Guichaoua (gee-SHAW’-wah).

Cogito announced Friday that the book will come out in March and feature “graphic testimony from the women that Swedish prosecutors plan to use” against him in their investigation of possible rape.

lergy . Phew. (hash)wasgetting-reallynervous.”

Murphy isn’t worried about the jokes, nor has the incident changed his opinion on using Twitter—or following pop culture.

“I just think that people in government tend to take themselves too seriously, and social media is a way for me to show people that I’m just a regular guy,” he said in a statement.

All the same, though, there won’t be a Justin Bieber concert T-shirt in Murphy’s dresser drawer anytime soon, nor is he likely to be humming verses of Bieber’s hit “Baby” on his way to Capitol Hill.

After his “ugh” reaction on Twitter to Bieber’s abortion stance, the congressman drove home his point with two more hash tags: “(hash)timetobequietagainjustin” and “(hash)bieberfevercured.”

No word, though, on whether he’s gaga for Lady Gaga.

Mom’s paranoia damages her daughter’s self-esteem

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My step-mother—the only mother I have ever known—has been clinically diagnosed with a paranoid personality. This means she is suspicious, a martyr in any situation and flatly denies anything she thinks would cast her in a negative light. She can be very convincing. Once or twice she has even convinced me that my memories were wrong, although the facts were later corroborated by other family members.

People who can’t see through her “act” consider my mother to be a saint. Those who see her clearly know that she’s spiteful and vindictive. She has, for years, refused to take her prescribed medicine and won’t explore any other treatment. She insists the problem is with everyone else, especially me.

You have told others about the need to cut toxic friends and relatives out of their lives, but how does one do it? I know there will never be closure or a good relationship, but I can’t help wanting one. I’m in my mid-30s and feel if my mother doesn’t love me, how can anyone else?

NEEDS A RESOLUTION IN GEORGIA

DEAR NEEDS A RESOLUTION: You have more than one problem. Removing toxic individuals from one’s life is as easy as refusing to go along with their behavior. Once you draw the line, those people will “help” you by cutting you out of theirs. Your mother’s mental illness may prevent her from loving anyone—not you specifically.

I hope you realize how important it is to discuss your feelings with a licensed psychologist. You have an entire upbringing by a woman with a damaged personality to overcome. The fact that she couldn’t love you does not mean you are unlovable. And the sooner you are able to accept that, the more lovable you will be because you will like yourself more.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Ten years ago I was suddenly widowed after many years of marriage. Because I was totally “available,” I became very involved with my children and grandchildren. I did not date.

About a year ago, that changed. I met “Gerald,” a man who makes me very happy. We enjoy dinners together, dancing and travel. We spend three nights a week together—usually at my place.

My brothers and friends are happy for me, but my daughters have not accepted him. They are civil in his presence, but in private they put him down. Their objections are: Gerald is more reserved than their father was, he takes up a lot of my time, that I’m “acting like a schoolgirl,” and the sleepovers set a bad example for the grandkids. (They are not present when this occurs.)

I have told my daughters repeatedly how happy I am and how hurtful I find their comments. I refuse to listen to their negative comments, but they always come up. I don’t want to alienate them and possibly have my time with my grandkids limited, but Gerald is going to be in my life for a while.

Any advice?

GERALD’S “GIRL”

DEAR GERALD’S “GIRL”: As an adult you have the right to live your life as you choose. Because you have already told your daughters their comments are hurtful, it’s time to stand your ground more strongly.

Your grandchildren will not be shocked that Gerald is spending nights with you if their parents do not discuss it with them or in front of them. They’ll be off doing their own thing as teenagers and, much as they love you, you will not be the focus of their attention.

If your daughters threaten to punish you by limiting your time with the grandkids, let it be their problem. But do not give in to the treatment they are giving you because it is unfair and uncalled-for.

■■■

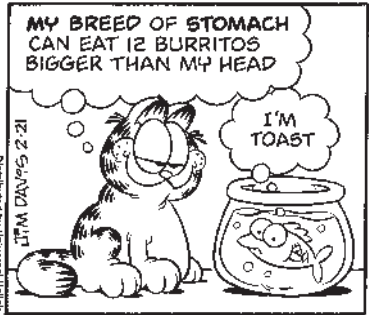
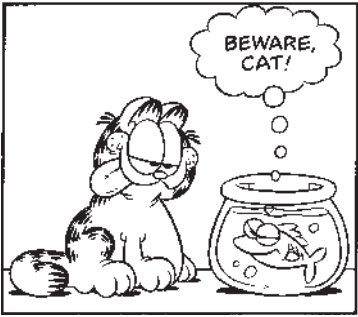
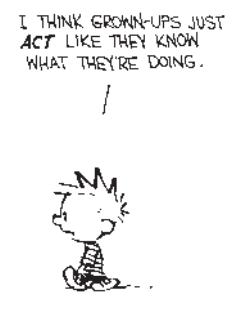
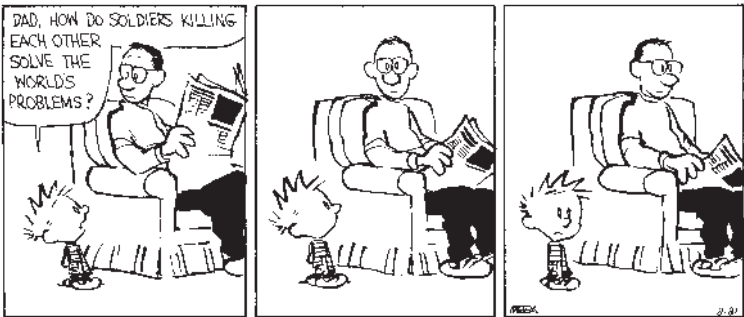
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

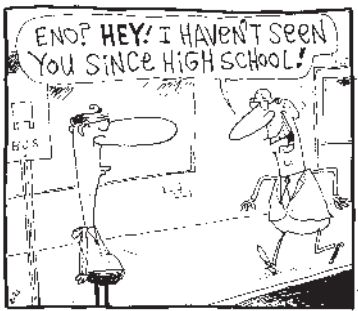
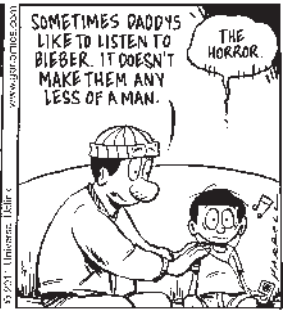
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Plant sticker 40 Gun- lobby org. 41 Leave out 43 Needle partner 45 Jaunty 47 Luau bowlful 48 One's years 49 Greek historian 54 Poolroom stick 55 Obliterate 56 Raw rock basketball team 57 Affirmative 58 Fender benders 59 Stick with a kick

DOWN 1 Ailing 2 Sandra or Ruby 3 Pouch 4 Laughs derisively 5 Spray-can contents 6 "Kitchy—" 7 Occupied 8 Save 9 Stimulating secretion 10 Emanation 11 Grouch 16 Charlemagne's realm (Abbr.) 20 Singer Guthrie 21 Face, slangily 22 Initial chip 23 Tennessee 27 Charlotte's creation 29 Pound of poetry 30 Scan 32 Actress Rogers 34 Overseas military base 37 Went after marlin 39 Colossus of — 42 Yonder 44 Carnival city 45 Risque 46 Chills and fever 50 Skedad-dled 51 Youngster 52 Coffee vessel 53 Collection

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 2-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 24; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 32; William Baldwin, 48; Kelsey Grammer, 56

Happy Birthday: The less everyone around you knows about your plans, ideas and intentions, the easier it will be to move forward without opposition. Follow all rules and regulations in order to avoid delays. A partnership you trusted is likely to disappoint you. Don't overreact this year, but do take notice. Your numbers are 2, 6, 19, 28, 31, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Hang on to what you've got. Don't take risks and refuse to let your emotions lead the way. Keep things in perspective; overreacting will only lead to impulsive actions and responses. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give the wrong impression or send the wrong signal when dealing with colleagues, peers or acquaintances. Precision and sticking to what you know and do best will be what gets you through the day. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your opinion will be well received and you will be honored for your contributions. Someone close to you will feel threatened by your success. Make an effort to put this person's mind at ease. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on learning and trying new things. If you isolate yourself, it will be difficult to fit into the situation that develops among your peers. Don't fear change. Embrace new beginnings. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to change your location or size down or up with regard to your living quarters. Making your home a place conducive to your lifestyle and professional needs is a must if you plan to get ahead. Money, contracts and settlements all look favorable. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get stuck in the past. Look to a brighter future. Connect with new people through social networking, events, activities or self-improvement classes. Love is in the stars but don't make an unrealistic promise. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your insight to avoid stressful personal situations that play on your emotions and threaten your relationships. Rely on past experience and your instincts to guide you down the right path. A new friend will help open doors. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work quietly on your own projects and you will accomplish the most. A change of plans will be in your favor. Decipher whether or not you have the backing of family and loved ones before you decide to include any of them in your plans. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful how you relay information or you may be blamed for meddling. If you don't have the facts, don't contribute. Emotional difficulties due to a burden you face must be handled delicately. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The past can be incredibly helpful if you remember valuable lessons. Overreacting

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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will not help any situation you face and neither will a sudden reversal on your part. Consistency will be the only way. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A money deal is apparent. Whether it's a settlement, winning, rebate, sale of a valuable possession or even a new contract or raise, you can get ahead financially if you take advantage of whatever comes your way. Don't spend before you pay off your debts. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use a little force if it will help you get your way but don't let it cause a dispute with someone you love. You'll be walking a fine line when it comes to giving to outsiders before giving to your family. A partnership can become one-sided if you don't delegate. ***

Birthday Baby: You are unique and impulsive. You make your decisions based on observation. You are not afraid to take action if necessary.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			9	1	3	2		5	
2	4			6				9	
									3
8			9		1			4	
7	3						8	2	
4			3		7			6	
5									
	1			9			7	5	
6			8	5	3	2			

Difficulty Level ★ 2/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	8	4	7	5	2	1	3
5	1	4	8	3	2	9	6	7
2	3	7	6	9	1	5	4	8
7	5	3	2	6	4	8	9	1
8	6	9	5	1	7	3	2	4
4	2	1	9	8	3	6	7	5
3	8	2	7	4	6	1	5	9
9	4	5	1	2	8	7	3	6
1	7	6	3	5	9	4	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/21

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle: — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE KING'S SPEECH Solution: 10 letters

P E U G O L L A P S A W A R D
O R D G C E I T R E B O B E E
H E W A E N C H O N E L E H L
S T D I V O R E D R O E L E I
I R R W L I F N F O L Y G A V
B A A I A L D F M O I R G R E
H C N D F R I E R E O T U S R
C U D P I L D U L E E N R E N
R R A A M O S I G H Y U T L R
A E L L C H Z G N E E O S P E
S C B A H A N D K H E C T O T
T O E C B I H A M L E T U E T
O A R E K S T A M M E R D P U
R C T S U R T H E R A P I S T
Y H T O M I T O T N O R O T S

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Albert, Archbishop, Award, Bertie, Bloom, Carter, Coach, Colin, Country, Cure, David, Deliver, Edward, Ehle, Elizabeth, Film, Firth, Geoffrey, Hamlet, Hand, Hone, Inherit, King George, Lionel, Logue, Order, Palace, Peoples, Radio, Rehearse, Role, Rush, Spall, Stammer, Story, Struggle, Studio, Stutter, Take, Therapist, Timothy, Toronto, Trust, Will

Last Saturday's Answer: Heat

To see the 2011 puzzle book, Volume 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56, 60, 64, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, 88, 92, 96, 100, 104, 108, 112, 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 136, 140, 144, 148, 152, 156, 160, 164, 168, 172, 176, 180, 184, 188, 192, 196, 200, 204, 208, 212, 216, 220, 224, 228, 232, 236, 240, 244, 248, 252, 256, 260, 264, 268, 272, 276, 280, 284, 288, 292, 296, 300, 304, 308, 312, 316, 320, 324, 328, 332, 336, 340, 344, 348, 352, 356, 360, 364, 368, 372, 376, 380, 384, 388, 392, 396, 400, 404, 408, 412, 416, 420, 424, 428, 432, 436, 440, 444, 448, 452, 456, 460, 464, 468, 472, 476, 480, 484, 488, 492, 496, 500, 504, 508, 512, 516, 520, 524, 528, 532, 536, 540, 544, 548, 552, 556, 560, 564, 568, 572, 576, 580, 584, 588, 592, 596, 600, 604, 608, 612, 616, 620, 624, 628, 632, 636, 640, 644, 648, 652, 656, 660, 664, 668, 672, 676, 680, 684, 688, 692, 696, 700, 704, 708, 712, 716, 720, 724, 728, 732, 736, 740, 744, 748, 752, 756, 760, 764, 768, 772, 776, 780, 784, 788, 792, 796, 800, 804, 808, 812, 816, 820, 824, 828, 832, 836, 840, 844, 848, 852, 856, 860, 864, 868, 872, 876, 880, 884, 888, 892, 896, 900, 904, 908, 912, 916, 920, 924, 928, 932, 936, 940, 944, 948, 952, 956, 960, 964, 968, 972, 976, 980, 984, 988, 992, 996, 1000, 1004, 1008, 1012, 1016, 1020, 1024, 1028, 1032, 1036, 1040, 1044, 1048, 1052, 1056, 1060, 1064, 1068, 1072, 1076, 1080, 1084, 1088, 1092, 1096, 1100, 1104, 1108, 1112, 1116, 1120, 1124, 1128, 1132, 1136, 1140, 1144, 1148, 1152, 1156, 1160, 1164, 1168, 1172, 1176, 1180, 1184, 1188, 1192, 1196, 1200, 1204, 1208, 1212, 1216, 1220, 1224, 1228, 1232, 1236, 1240, 1244, 1248, 1252, 1256, 1260, 1264, 1268, 1272, 1276, 1280, 1284, 1288, 1292, 1296, 1300, 1304, 1308, 1312, 1316, 1320, 1324, 1328, 1332, 1336, 1340, 1344, 1348, 1352, 1356, 1360, 1364, 1368, 1372, 1376, 1380, 1384, 1388, 1392, 1396, 1400, 1404, 1408, 1412, 1416, 1420, 1424, 1428, 1432, 1436, 1440, 1444, 1448, 1452, 1456, 1460, 1464, 1468, 1472, 1476, 1480, 1484, 1488, 1492, 1496, 1500, 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5488, 5492, 5496, 5500, 5504, 5508, 5512, 5516, 5520, 5524, 5528, 5532, 5536, 5540, 5544, 5548, 5552, 5556, 5560, 5564, 5568, 5572, 5576, 5580, 5584, 5588, 5592, 5596, 56

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Gense/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Well maintained ONE BR. fully furnished APT. NEAR MHS with AC in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Nursery, off Texas Rd. 24 hrs govt. and rain water. Washing machine & dryer. Ceiling fans in all rooms. Walk-in closet. \$375, water included. Call Ed at 788-6268

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Saipan Tribune

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Friday, January 7, 2011

Pastimes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield**
By Glenn McCoy

Saipan Tribune Sports

Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

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Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LENLEN

Find today's solution in this section

Clippers' Griffin leaps car to win dunk contest



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin leaped over a car and threw down a two-handed dunk to the accompaniment of a gospel choir, winning the slam dunk contest in iconic style before his hometown fans on All-Star Saturday.

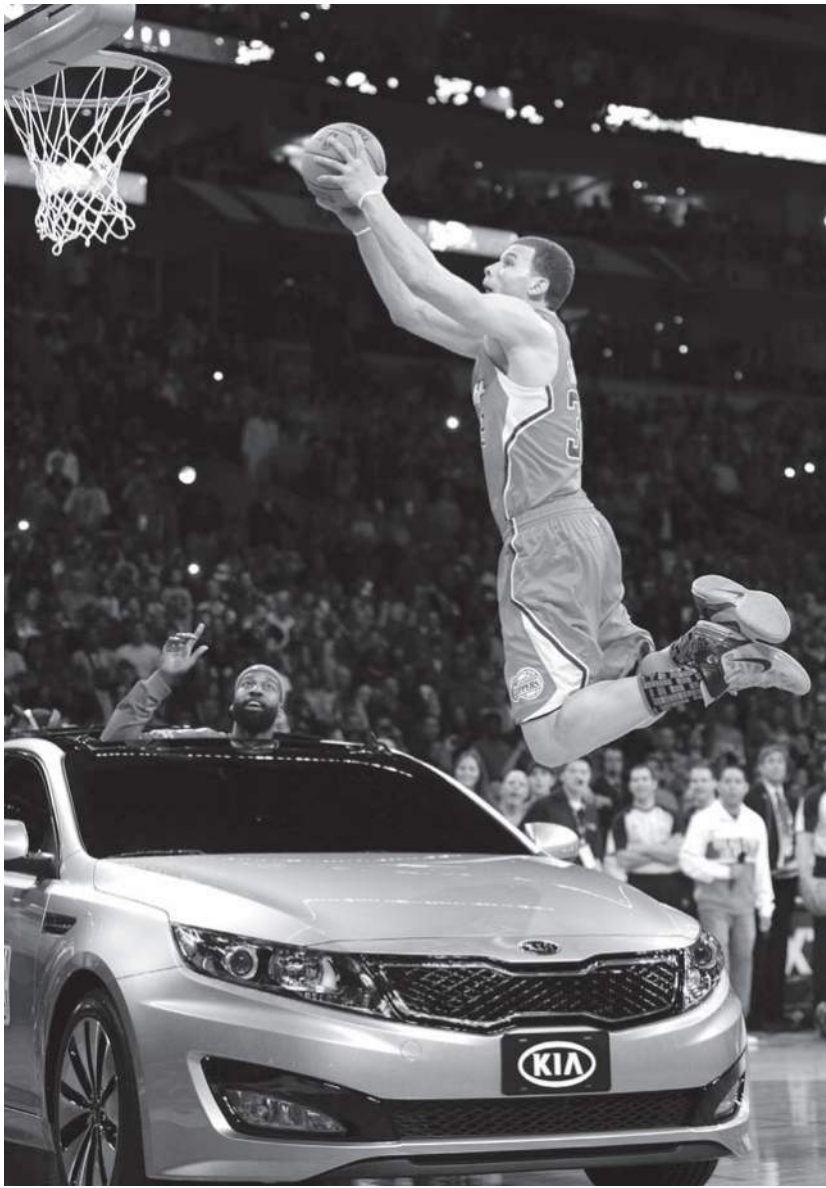
The Los Angeles Clippers' rookie caught a pass out of the sunroof from teammate Baron Davis and easily cleared the 2011 Kia Optima's hood while the Crenshaw Select Choir sang "I Believe I Can Fly" at midcourt.

The inventive slam drove home the obvious point of the All-Star weekend's silly Saturday: Griffin has both the raw athleticism and the showtime flair to be the NBA's next big star.

With an entire building solidly behind Griffin, finalist Javale McGee of Washington and Toronto's DeMar DeRozan really didn't stand a chance despite their own creative dunks at Staples Center.

Earlier, Miami's James Jones held off Boston teammates Paul Pierce and Ray Allen to win his first 3-point shoot-out, and Golden State's Stephen Curry won the Skills Challenge.

But All-Star Saturday was a showcase for Griffin, who started the contest with an irresistibly 360-degree spin dunk before converting a bounce



pass off the side of the backboard in the first round.

The first rookie All-Star in eight years then brought back an impossibly difficult favorite with his first dunk of the final, sticking his arm into the hoop and hanging from it by his elbow, just as Vince Carter did while winning the 2000 contest.

And when fans saw the car driving out of the arena tunnel, this contest already seemed to be over.

Griffin is in the midst of the busiest All-Star weekend in the NBA's recent history. He scored 14 points in the Rookie Challenge, and he stayed in the dunk contest even after getting chosen for the West squad in Sunday's main event.

The forward from Oklahoma is averaging 22.8 points and 12.6 rebounds as the strong rookie of the year favorite for the Clippers, but he's best known around the world for his astonishing dunking skills, combining the hops of a guard with a center's raw strength.

All four dunkers distinguished themselves in Hollywood, showing planning and invention in what's sometimes a slapdash event - but Griffin was the overwhelming favorite for nearly every All-Star gathered at Staples Cen-

Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin dunks over a car as Baron Davis looks on from inside the car during the Slam Dunk Contest at the NBA basketball All-Star weekend, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, in Los Angeles.

ter, and he didn't disappoint.

After DeRozan opened the contest by catching a pass off the backboard and putting it between his legs for a slick one-handed jam, Serge Ibaka took the court amid several banners for NBA Africa and promptly threw down a Dr. J-style long-jump dunk from the free throw line.

McGee then got creative, ordering a second basket standard attached to a forklift and placed right next to the hoop. After several misses, he managed to throw down a left-handed dunk while tossing the other ball off the backboard to himself for a right-handed jam, earning a perfect 50.

After several misses on his second attempt, Griffin caught a pass off the side of the backboard from Davis for a one-handed jam that was enough to send him into the second round.

McGee joined him after dunking three balls on the same leap, slapping home a pass for the third jam. DeRozan couldn't make the final round despite an impressive second dunk in which he threw a pass to himself off the backboard for a windmill reverse jam.

After Griffin's elbow dunk in the final, McGee floated underneath the rim and threw down an impossibly twisting jam from the other side.

That's when Griffin rolled out his wheels.

McGee made another difficult dunk in his final attempt, but Griffin received 68 percent of the fan voting that determines the final result.

Nets owner meets with Anthony



NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov met with Carmelo Anthony in Los Angeles on the same day a spokeswoman for the Russian billionaire said he had no plans to sit down with the All-Star forward, according to multiple reports.

Minority owner Jay-Z also was involved in Saturday's meeting, according to the New York Daily News.

The Nuggets have looked into trading Anthony since he declined to sign a three-year contract extension worth nearly \$65 million this season. The Nets were close to a deal twice, and the New York Knicks are considered the other favorite to land Anthony if Denver decides to move him.

New Jersey and Denver recently renewed trade talks for Anthony for the third time this season. But Anthony, who can become a free agent after this season, insisted twice Friday that no meeting was planned with Prokhorov and Ellen Pinchuk, a spokeswoman for the owner, made the same claim earlier Saturday.

"Just to update you, Mikhail has not met with and has no plans to meet with Carmelo Anthony," she said. "He is looking forward to enjoying All Star Weekend. We will have nothing else to add on this ..."

ESPN.com, citing a league source, reported that the meeting occurred at a Los Angeles-area restaurant and also included Nets general manager Billy King and chief executive Brett Yormark. Anthony's agent, Leon Rose, and his business manager, Bay Frazier, also were there, according to the report.

Anthony wants something to happen soon, but hasn't received any indication from Nuggets president Josh Kroenke that it will.

"I believe that me and Josh have a good relationship. Since he became the owner, we've

been talking a lot. The lines of communication have been open," Anthony said earlier Saturday. "I do believe that if something was to break or happen, that he would call me or he would sit down with me and explain it."

New York or New Jersey would have to give up a big portion of its roster to land Anthony. Yahoo! Sports reported Friday that the Knicks were willing to offer starters Danilo Gallinari, Wilson Chandler and Raymond Felton.

"If anything was to happen with whatever team, of course,

I would want a team to be able to compete with," Anthony said. "As far as all the players that's in the deal, that's supposed to be in the deal, yeah, that's a lot of players for one guy."

The Nuggets approached the Nets in the past week to see if they were still interested in acquiring the small forward, an NBA source close to Nets told The Associated Press on Thursday. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak for the team.

There were reports the Nets and Nuggets discussed a deal that would have sent point guard Devin Harris, rookie forward Derrick Favors, the No.

3 pick in the draft, others and at least three of the Nets' five first-round draft picks over the next two seasons to Denver for Anthony, point guard Chauncey Billups and others.

The Nets were close to a deal for Anthony in training camp and there was a 10-day span in January when the Nets and Nuggets appeared on the verge of pulling off a blockbuster 15- or 16-player, three-team deal with Detroit that would have brought Anthony to New Jersey.

When the deal lingered without resolution, Prokhorov ended the speculation in dramatic fashion, saying the lingering talks were hurting his team. He also cited the high price the

Nuggets were seeking and his frustration with the public nature of the talks.

When asked earlier Saturday if there were any meetings or last-ditch efforts planned to try to land Anthony, Jay-Z told The Associated Press: "Nothing is done until it's done."

Knicks All-Star Amare Stoudemire denied a report that he was against the reported deal for Anthony.

"I don't know where you heard that from. You didn't hear it from me," he said. "It's always a touchy topic because you don't want to offend anyone . . . but Carmelo is obviously a friend. He's from New York, New York loves him."

Stern: Dialogue, not rhetoric needed in NBA talks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBA Commissioner David Stern said Saturday "it's time to start negotiating" a new collective bargaining agreement and get rid of the rhetoric.

And with the deadline approaching, he thinks that's being done.

"I think we have excised it," he said during his annual All-Star press conference.

Not entirely, though. Shortly after he said the players largely agreed with the league's financial figures, the union said it still disagreed.

Stern said the league and the players' association realize the importance of agreeing to a deal before the expiration

of the current one on June 30, adding that both sides understand from the work stoppage of 1998 how devastating a lockout could be.

"We both have the capacity to shut down the league," he said. "There's no magic that's going to keep this league operating if we don't make a deal."

The sides met Friday and agreed to hold more talks in smaller groups over the next few months.

The union has been frustrated by what it believes is an unwillingness by the league to negotiate. The NBA has offered no new proposals in the year since the players rejected its initial one during last year's

All-Star break.

But both sides said their meeting Friday was cordial and believe it showed a desire on both sides to focus more on the issues.

"I liked yesterday's meeting, because the union agreed to talk about some things that they said were nonnegotiable," Stern said.

"Yesterday what I heard for the first time in response to our statement that we're willing to talk about everything, is that they were willing to talk about everything. And so we welcome that and now we are going to spend our time setting up small and large groups to talk about everything. And then

we'll see how it goes."

Stern declined to specify what the union was now open to discussing, though added that in order to make the league more competitive "there are certain system changes that cover a lot of different subjects that change the status quo."

That would seem to imply a hard salary cap, which union executive director Billy Hunter has called a "nonstarter." There were no indications Friday during its press conference that the union has backed off its stance against a hard cap, which the owners want to replace the current system that allows certain exceptions to the cap.

Stern also said the union now largely agreed with the league's revenue projections. The union

has long disputed the NBA's projections of \$350 in losses this season.

"We sort of both agreed that the numbers are what they are and it doesn't pay to argue about them anymore," Stern said. "They are real."

Hunter released a statement after the press conference saying: There has been ongoing debate and disagreement regarding the numbers, and we do not agree that the stated loss figures reflect an accurate portrayal of the financial health of the league.

Stern repeated that the league will have expanded revenue sharing, but not until there is a new CBA that eliminates some of the teams' losses, because "you can't revenue share your way to a profit as a league."

NFL, union hold second day of negotiation



WASHINGTON (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, union executive director DeMaurice Smith and members of their negotiating teams participated in a second consecutive six-hour session with a federal mediator Saturday, trying to spur progress less than two weeks before the league's labor deal expires.

They're finally talking to each other - but they're not revealing how well it's going.

"I have nothing to say, obviously," Jeffrey Kessler, a lawyer for the NFL Players Association, said on his way out of the meeting. "We're in a cone of silence."

For the second day in a row, the two sides convened at the office of George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a U.S. government agency. They met with Co-

hen for the first time Friday after agreeing to the mediation, which is not binding but is meant as a way to initiate progress in the slow and sometimes contentious bargaining.

The plan calls for several days of negotiations with Cohen, who asked participants to not make any public comments on the process.

Neither Goodell nor Smith stopped to take questions as they left Saturday's meeting.

Asked while he got into a waiting car if he were sure he didn't want to comment at all about the negotiations, Goodell replied, "That, I'm sure of."

The current collective bargaining agreement runs out at the end of the day March 3. The players believe that team owners are preparing to lock them out as soon as the following day, which could threaten the 2011 season. The NFL has not lost games to a work stoppage since 1987.

Among those joining Goodell on Saturday: NFL counsel and lead labor negotiator Jeff Pash; league senior vice president and treasurer Joe Silclaire; and outside lawyer Bob Batterman, who was working for the NHL when it lost its entire 2004-05 season to a lockout.

Smith was accompanied by at least a dozen people, a much larger union contingent than was seen Friday. In addition to Kessler and another lawyer, Richard Berthelsen, the union was represented by Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, New York Jets fullback Tony Richardson, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch, and former players Pete Kendall and Sean Morey.

None would reveal anything about what went on during Saturday's talks, but Saturday noted: "Nothing can be done without communicating."

Indeed, the start of mediation could be a posi-

tive sign after several months of infrequent negotiations - and frequent rhetoric, including charges from each side that the other was hoping for a work stoppage.

The league and union went more than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once last week but called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised a clause in 2008 that allowed them to opt out of the deal.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games, a rookie wage scale, and benefits for retired players.

Baddeley sneaks past Couples and into lead



LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Fred Couples was starting to show his age Saturday at Riviera.

He hit a poor wedge, knocked a putt over the back of the green and turned a potential birdie into bogey on the 10th hole to slip three shots behind Aaron Baddeley in the Northern Trust Open. Then came a pounding rain as Couples approached the toughest stretch of the course, and the 51-year-old with an aching back braced for the worst.

"I was thinking, 'What am I going to shoot on the back nine, 40?'" Couples said. "You start playing like those guys did yesterday in that weather, anything would have happened."

Something did. The rain stopped. Couples played the rest of the way in 1-under par, keeping alive his hopes of another win at Riviera, and a chance to become the oldest PGA Tour winner in more than 35 years.

Even in good weather, it might not be easy.

Baddeley, whose career once held so much promise when he won the Australian Open as an 18-year-old amateur, is starting to hit his stride since returning to longtime swing coach Dale Lynch. He played 22 holes on Saturday in all kinds of weather and hit just about every shot where he was aiming, including a few putts.

He birdied the 18th in the morning chill to finish off a second-round 69, then ran off three straight birdies around the turn that led to a 4-under 67 and his first 36-hole lead on the PGA Tour in five years.

Baddeley was at 10-under 203, one shot clear of Couples and Kevin Na, who grew up in Southern California and attended his first PGA Tour event at Riviera in 1995 when he was an 11-year-old with big dreams. Na also shot a 67.

"Tomorrow is going to be a good challenge for all of us," Baddeley said.

Winless in four years, Baddeley probably could not have guessed that the challenge



Aaron Baddeley, of Australia, after hitting his drive into the right rough on the 13th fairway, makes his approach shot in the third round of the Northern Trust Open PGA golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011.

would come from a couple of guys who are nearly old enough to be his father.

Couples, who joined the PGA Tour the year Baddeley was born, wound up with a 70.

One shot behind was Vijay Singh, who turns 48 on Tuesday and is trying to climb out of the worst slump of his career. He felt like the world's best putter in the third round, finishing with a birdie on the tough 18th for a 67.

Singh last won in 2008 at the Deutsche Bank Championship on his way to the FedEx Cup title.

"I'm really fired up for tomorrow," Singh said. "I'm in a good position to win tomorrow, so we'll see what happens."

Baddeley's last victory was in 2007 at the Phoenix Open. Later that year, he had a two-shot lead going into the final round of the U.S. Open at Oakmont, only to close with an 80. His game was in such disarray that he has plunged to No. 224 in the world ranking.

"It's been a little bit of time since I've been in this position, so I'm excited for the challenge," Baddeley said. "I'm excited to test out the new action, and I feel good. I feel like it's going to be fun tomorrow."

Baddeley was among those who went to the "Stack and Tilt" method taught by Mike Bennett

and Andy Plummer, then decided to go back to his Australian coach, Dale Lynch.

"It's funny because I feel like I've been actually making a lot of progress, but it was never really showing on the scoreboard," Baddeley said. "So these last few weeks have really been nice to start to put some scores on the board. This week has been really nice."

And there was one nice stretch in particular.

It started with a tough approach to the par-4 eighth, where Baddeley had to be careful not to be too aggressive and run off the slope on the other side of the pin. He put it to within 8 feet for birdie, then holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the ninth. He nearly drove the 10th green, leaving him a delicate pitch to tap-in range for his third straight birdie.

One of his few mistakes was a tee shot that led to an adventure through the trees on the par-5 11th. It looked as though he would escape with par when he hit a wedge out of the rough to 4 feet, but he missed the putt.

He finished with seven straight pars.

Ryan Moore (70) and John Senden (71) were at 6-under 207, while Stewart Cink (71) and Robert Allenby (71) were

part of the large group another shot behind.

Defending champion Steve Stricker made the cut on the number, then had a 66. That still left him seven shots behind. Stricker is still closer than Phil Mickelson, who struggled to a 74 and was at 2-over 215.

The gallery was with Couples, who first won at Riviera in 1990 when his hair was brown and he ambled along with California cool. Couples still has the cool factor to go with his graying hair, and he still has enough game.

He narrowly missed a 15-foot eagle putt on the opening hole. He made only one other birdie on the par-5 11th, and otherwise settled for pars except for his lone bogey. It was enough, though, to keep him in the game.

"I hung in there," Couples said. "I didn't hit the ball exceptionally well, but I hit it solid, which is what I said I needed to do. I just didn't make enough birdies. So tomorrow I have to come out and fight and see what happens."

Couples was one of the players Na wanted to watch when he came out to Riviera with his father in 1995. Now he will be playing with him in the final group, a chance for Na to get his first victory. And it would be a special one at that.

Cabrera misses Tigers' first full-squad practice

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera missed the Tigers' first day of a full-squad practice and the team doesn't know when he will report.

"Miguel is not going to be here today nor will be here for the next couple of days,"

Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said Saturday. "We had conversations yesterday between the commissioner's office, the players association, myself and Miguel's representative and him, and we've decided that it's best to meet with some doctors in the beginning of the week and completely assess what has taken place."

The first baseman was arrested late Wednesday on suspicion of drunken driving in Fort Pierce, about 110 miles southeast of Lakeland.

Dombrowski said he won't know when Cabrera might return until after the doctors see him.

"I would anticipate, after the doctor visits with him, having some type of feel by at least the middle of this week," he said. "I've talked to him on the phone a couple of times. He's as down as he can be. He feels terrible."

Manager Jim Leyland reiterated that Cabrera is his first baseman and part of the team no matter what.

"We will welcome him back with open arms. We are a family," Leyland said. "We support him and always will. We can take care of it. I love that kid."

"I am not enjoying it right now but I can't wait for the kid to come in. I love the kid. I will support him in everything he does."

Detroit is hoping to contend for the AL Central title after adding players such as Victor Martinez and Brad Penny in the offseason. Cabrera is the lineup's center-

piece. He hit .328 with 38 home runs last year and finished second in the American League MVP vote to Texas' Josh Hamilton.

Dombrowski said Cabrera wanted to be with the team, but accepted the decision to seek help.

"Until that happens we have all decided that it's better that he be away from camp, even though he would love to be here and is capable of playing at this point," the GM said.

Nobody doubts Cabrera's physical ability, but teammates are concerned about him. He's struggled with alcohol-related problems in the past. Late in the 2009 season, police said Cabrera got into a fight with his wife after a night of drinking.

Dombrowski had to pick up Cabrera at the station after that incident. No charges were filed.

"He's cooperative and realizes he's had an alcohol problem in the past that he's addressed and has worked through, and he fell off of that program," Dombrowski said. "He acknowledges that and he will do what's necessary to get back on track. But I will also say he's extremely down. He wants to be here. He feels terrible but he understands the importance of making sure that this is properly evaluated."

Leyland is undeterred by Cabrera's situation and determined to get camp off to a good start.

"I think the important thing is that it will not be a distraction," he said. "The Tigers are doing everything to make things proper. Miguel is a tremendous guy and we are going to do everything we can to contribute. I love the guy and I know he is going to do all he can to contribute."



Enforcers keep unbeaten record

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The JPO Enforcers, McDonald's, and the Do-Como-Rep.

Ramon Basa A's all came out on the winning end of their Majors division matchups in the 2011 Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Enforcers downed YCO Rays, 14-9, to remain undefeated in four games. McDonald's pounced the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Braves, 18-9, while the A's bested the Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Lions, 8-4.

Enforcers 14, Rays 9

The Rays hit the board first with two runs in the first inning off a wild pitch and a RBI single by J.J. Taisacan, but the Enforcers answered with five runs in the bottom frame. Cedric Camacho blasted a two-RBI triple and scored later off a passed ball and then Leo Williams hit an



The JPO Enforcers pose for a team photo after their 14-9 victory over YCO Rays in the Majors division on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

RBI single and also scored off a passed ball.

The Rays failed to answer to start the second and Enforcers added two runs to jump ahead, 7-2, after two innings. The Rays

managed two runs in the top of the third, but the Enforcers got a run back in the bottom frame.

The Rays came up empty to start the fourth and the Enforcers shot ahead, 13-4, in the bot-

tom half of the inning. Joaquin Saralu hit a RBI single, Henry Lizama made an RBI triple and the rest came off an error and two passed balls.

The Rays managed four runs

of a double, two hits, and two walks in the top of the fifth, but were still far from getting out of the woods. The Enforcers tacked on another run to end the fifth and contained the Rays to just one run their final stand.

A's 8, Lions 4

The A's struck first with two runs in the bottom of the first inning; Nathan Nogis and Donavin Ada scored off errors.

The A's added two more runs in the bottom of the second and another run in the bottom of the third frame to pull ahead, 5-0. Nogis and Myles Santos both reached and scored off errors in the second and Joseph Mogofna singled in Santos in the third.

The Lions managed two runs to start the fourth inning. Bradley Pangelinan knocked in Jessie Kalen and Franco Masga brought the former home two batters later. The A's Dean Santos reached and scored off errors to get a run back in the bottom frame.

The Lions answered with a run in the top of the fifth and then an RBI double by Kalen scored Saeem Reza to trim the deficit, 3-8.

The Lions stopped the bleeding in the later innings, but only managed one run in their last stand.

McDonald's 18, Braves 9

McDonald's broke the ice with a pair of runs scored off passed balls in the top of the first inning.

The Braves failed to answer and McDonald's made it 4-0 in the top of the second. Perry Tenorio drove in Anthony Fruit and Rico Villagomez scored off an error. The Braves came up empty again and McDonald's added two more runs off a passed ball and an error to start the third frame.

The Braves managed a run in the bottom half off a passed ball, but McDonald's scored two more runs in the top of the fourth to go ahead, 8-1. George Pangelinan knocked in Villagomez and Tenorio later stole home.

The Braves got one run back off a passed ball, but McDonald's gashed the Braves with seven runs in the top of the fifth for a 15-2 lead. Pangelinan scored Tenorio with a triple, Sam Fritz singled in Fruit, and the rest came in off errors and a passed ball.

The Braves managed five runs in the bottom frame, but were never able to dig themselves out of the hole and were outscored in the last inning, 3-2.

MHS

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The Lady Dolphins 2 earned a first round bye in the double-elimination playoffs for finishing first place in the regular season. They then defeated sister team MHS 1, 2-0, in the second round, and downed Kagman

High School, 4-0, to advance to the finals. The Lady Dolphins 2 played Kagman anew and won the championship game, 3-0

The Lady Ayuyus were ranked second in the playoffs and won against Saipan Southern High School via penalty kicks, 4-3. The game was tied at 1-1 after regulation.

After losing to MHS 2, Kag-

man bounced back and defeated Southern again, 2-0, in the loser's bracket semifinals to move into the championship game.

At the start of the finals, fatigue took its toll on Kagman, while MHS 2 drew first blood in the opening minutes of play off a breakaway goal from Jeralyn Castillo. Then Rima Halaby scored off Castillo's

assists in the 10-minute mark of the first half to put MHS 2 ahead, 2-0. Going into the last two minutes of the first half, MHS made it a 3-0 lead on Krizzelle Alforeza's goal off Halaby's feed.

In the second half, Kagman strengthened its defense and held MHS scoreless. However, the Lady Ayuyus, who played in

the finals only a few minutes after their semis win over Southern, could not execute their offensive plan, as they had limited options on their roster.

The Lady Dolphins 2 capitalized on the visible tired Kagman crew to top the five-team field. Southern finished third, while MHS 1 and Tinian High School placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Besides Halaby, Castillo, and Alforeza, the champion team also have Elisa Fejerman, Goldie Ague, Ericka Dela Rosa, Shane Golinga, Olivia Leung, Lina Manalili, Windy Orcine, Paila Race, Kimiko Wally. Riezel David, Deveney Dela Cruz, Gemma Eugenio, Genevieve Gottwald, Lyvette Lacsina, and Lia Rangamar as members.

SIS

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The Lady Geckos have team captain Amber Roberts, Jessica Soll, Emma McCullough-Stearns, Zoe Jewell, Jian Joyner,

Shane Jones, Svahn Tured, Celine Camacho, and Jeane Bracken as members.

In other results, Saipan Southern High School fell to GCA in the first round and then lost to MHS 2 in the loser's bracket to finish in sev-

enth place. MHS 2 suffered a first round loss to MHS 1 and later fell to Kagman High School for a sixth place finish. GCA lost its loser's bracket match to KHS and settled for fifth place.

Tinian High School defeat-

ed Kagman in the first round, but fell to MHS 1 in its next match. Tinian finished in fourth, while Kagman placed third after the Lady Ayuyus came out on top of their loser's bracket rematch against the former.

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Luther Lizama, Clayton Izuka, Tania Tan and Julia Ishikawa.

The adults' singles had Jeff Race and Peter Loyola as finalists in the men's division and Lydia Tan and Kinumi Taniguchi in the women's singles.

Jake Lee notched the first finals berth in the U15 after winning over Seiya Eda in the quarterfinals on Saturday, 8-1, and against Tommy Choi in the semis yesterday, 8-4. Angelo

Jones advanced after an 8-3 triumph over Chris Park on Saturday and another 8-3 win against Carl Dela Cruz yesterday.

In the girls U12 singles, Ackerman won via walkover versus Gio Hur and then topped Carol Lee, 8-6, to advance against Emily Jones, who prevailed over Tiffany Madlambayan, 8-5, and Isabel Herras, 8-6.

The first boys U12 singles finals seat went to Villanueva after he defeated Michael Ren in the semis, 8-0. Ramsey joined Villanueva in the finals, following an 8-0 triumph over

Michael Jones.

In the boys U10, Lizama claimed two wins over the weekend to make it to the finals. He won over Ken Song, 6-0, and Alex Park, 6-4. Izuka also notched two wins over the weekend to move into the finals. Izuka topped Vincent Tudela, 6-1, and Steven Goodwin, 6-4.

In the girls U10, Tan downed Sally Hwang, 6-0, and Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-5, to seal the first finals berth and face Ishikawa, who won over Hana Nelson, 6-0, and Malika Miyawaki, 6-1.

In the men's singles, it will

be a battle of the coaches between Race and Loyola. Race advanced after downing Bobby Cruz in the semis yesterday, 8-6, while Loyola defeated Raj Rai in the other semis pairing, 8-2.

In the women's singles, Lydian Tan will duel Taniguchi after they gained separate semis wins over Sakiko Eda, 8-1, and Nina Engelhardt, 8-4, respectively.

Meanwhile, the pairs of Tim Goodwin and Chris Cajigan and Peter Loken and Emily Jones clinched the semis seats in the upper half of the 64-team draw in the mixed up doubles event.

SATBAHI

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within eight. Mangali tallied seven points in that run. Satbahi then continued to rally, cutting the lead to as low as seven, 49-56, after Wowie Abuel's first triple of the night.

By the end of the third quarter, Satbahi was still in the game, behind by only

eight, 54-62, after Demapan completed a three-point play and Abuel canned another long jumper.

Abuel then hit his second triple to cap Satbahi's 9-0 blast in the first two minutes of the fourth quarter and put his team in the driver's seat for the first time, 63-62.

It was a seesaw game from thereon until Abuel scored eight of Satbahi's next 10

points off two triples and a layup and gave Satbahi a 73-69 cushion, going into the final three minutes of the game.

Satbahi did a great job protecting the lead as the clocked ran out, while Mobil had a monumental collapse, missing easy shots in the homestretch.

Abuel top-scored for Satbahi with 25 points, while Demapan and Mangali added 16

and 12, respectively. Marvin Rabauliman led Mobil with 24 points, while Jun Estolas chipped in 21.

Satbahi 87 – Abuel 25, Demapan 16, Mangali 12, Paraiso 10, Aquino 8, Pantaleon 6, Mortos 4, Camacho 3.

Mobil 83 – Rabauliman 24, Estolas 21, Basila 12, Tamayo 9, Gapor 6, Sharry 4, De Guzman 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-17, 25-42, 54-62, 87-83.

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LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Northern Trust Open, a \$6.5 million US PGA Tour event at the 7,325-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club:

Third Round

Aaron Baddeley	67-69-67—203
Kevin Na	71-66-67—204
Fred Couples	68-66-70—204
Vijay Singh	68-70-67—205
Ryan Moore	69-68-70—207
John Senden	67-69-71—207
Harrison Frazar	69-74-65—208
Jimmy Walker	68-71-69—208
Robert Allenby	67-70-71—208
Justin Rose	69-69-70—208
Stewart Cink	70-67-71—208
Spencer Levin	67-69-72—208
J.B. Holmes	67-69-72—208
Stuart Appleby	69-72-68—209
Martin Laird	67-73-69—209
K.J. Choi	70-69-70—209
Trevor Immelman	70-67-72—209
Vaughn Taylor	71-71-68—210
Kevin Stadler	70-71-69—210
Retief Goosen	69-71-70—210
Hunter Haas	71-69-70—210
Cameron Tringale	71-68-71—210
Steve Stricker	73-72-65—210
David Duval	71-71-69—211
Tommy Gainey	71-71-69—211
Matt Kuchar	69-73-69—211
Zach Johnson	73-70-68—211
Geoff Ogilvy	69-71-71—211
Ryan Palmer	70-71-70—211
Paul Casey	71-67-73—211
Steve Marino	71-71-70—212
Ben Curtis	71-70-71—212
J.J. Henry	69-74-69—212
Bill Haas	67-74-71—212

Chad Collins	70-73-69—212
Scott Piercy	73-66-73—212
Zack Miller	76-66-71—213
Peter Tomasulo	68-74-71—213
Michael Putnam	72-69-72—213
Jarrold Lyle	70-72-71—213
Louis Oosthuizen	71-70-72—213
Shaun Micheel	72-69-72—213
Robert Karlsson	71-70-72—213
Jhonattan Vegas	71-70-72—213
Brendon de Jonge	72-72-69—213
Brandt Jobe	71-73-69—213
Paul Goydos	72-73-68—213
Charley Hoffman	71-74-68—213
Rickie Fowler	74-71-68—213
Jason Dufner	70-75-68—213
Robert Garrigus	73-69-72—214
Scott McCarron	72-72-70—214
Padraig Harrington	68-71-75—214
Hunter Mahan	72-71-72—215
Phil Mickelson	71-70-74—215
D.J. Trahan	71-73-71—215
Carl Pettersson	67-78-70—215
Lucas Glover	73-72-70—215
Jeff Overton	73-71-72—216
Steve Flesch	73-71-72—216
Corey Pavin	69-71-76—216
Jim Furyk	75-70-71—216
Ricky Barnes	72-73-71—216
Erik Compton	72-70-75—217
Charles Howell III	72-72-73—217
Arjun Atwal	71-74-72—217
Jason Bohn	72-73-72—217
Andres Romero	72-73-72—217
Justin Leonard	73-72-72—217
Matt Jones	71-74-72—217
Michael Sim	70-71-77—218
Sean O'Hair	72-71-75—218
Yuta Ikeda	71-73-74—218
Tim Petrovic	74-70-75—219
Mark Wilson	71-73-76—220
Troy Merritt	71-74-75—220
Brian Davis	68-76-78—222

The Week in Sports

Athletes reap rewards

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Athletes were recognized for their feats last week.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association honored the top performers of last season during an awards ceremony at the Saipan Grand Hotel Thursday night. Leading the awardees were 2010 NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Year Rezne Wong and Yvonne Bennett, 2010 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year Christian Miller and Lia Rangamar, 2010 Coach of the Year Tony Rogolifoi, and 2010 CNMI Hall of Fame inductee Tino Olopai.

NMASA also recognized the athletes of the month last season, including Robert Talavera, Juan Maratita, and Tyce Mister, who besides receiving certificates from NMASA also took home separate awards from their respective tournaments.

Maratita played for Kagman High School and brought home a championship trophy after lifting the Ayuyus to a title win against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO caging.

Talavera was recognized for his fifth perfect game during the Friday Night League, while Mister teamed up with Chris Nelson and won the For the Love of Volleyball tournament.

Earlier before the volleyball event, Mister joined the 2nd Annual Northern Passage and finished second to Butch Sublemente in the championship course of the bike race.

In the women's division of the championship course, Jackie Van Dam finished first, while Bob Ferrer and Amanda Kloeppel ruled the short and rookie course, respectively. In the men's rookie course, Nelson Pagaduan was the top finisher.

Meanwhile, other leagues/competitions in the CNMI continued last week.

The UBA/Docomo caging resumed with its regular season games and last week's winners include NMC Proa, IP&E Konflikt, Ol'Aces, Mobil, and Satbahi.

In softball, Island Apparel X-clusive, Check It Out, and Salty Boyz prevailed in their separate games in the Chamolinian league, while the Belau league had Asahi, TKK 2, Wuzz Up, Koror Tigers and Dial Rent 2 Own winning in Week 2.

In baseball, the Masters beat the Ol'Aces, 6-5, in the Saipan Major League, while four division games in the 2011 Saipan Little League Baseball continued.

In tennis, the 2011 White Coconut Classic had its first week of competition with 31 pairs advancing to the second round of the mixed up doubles. The Coconut Classic also had games in the U15, U10, U12, and U18 singles.

Still in tennis, Ji Hoon Heo was unbeaten in five games with Hawaii Pacific University in the NCAA Division II competition.



NMASA's monthly awardees for 2010 show their certificates during last week's 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet.



Kagman High School players celebrate their title win in the MISO caging last week.



2010 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year Christian Miller and Lia Rangamar pose with TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola, right, during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last week.



CNMI Hall of Fame 2010 inductee Tino Olopai, center, poses with fellow Hall of Famers and Breakers teammates Kurt Barnes, left, and Rick Duenas during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last week.



Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman, left, grabs the rebound against Prospects' Joy Dayrit during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



An Ol'Aces pitcher in action during a Majors game in last week's 2011 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Alfie Madlambayan returns to Luther Lizama during their boys U10 singles game in the 2011 White Coconut Classic last week at the AMP tennis courts.



Baddeley sneaks past Couples and into lead

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Clippers' Griffin leaps car to win dunk contest

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS 2 clinches soccer championship



Members of Marianas High School 2 pose with sister team MHS 1 after downing Kagman High School in the finals of the MISO soccer league on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Marianas High School 2 was undefeated in the playoff round to claim the championship of the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Soccer League on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



See **MHS 2** on Page 26

14 final seats in Coconut Tennis Classic taken

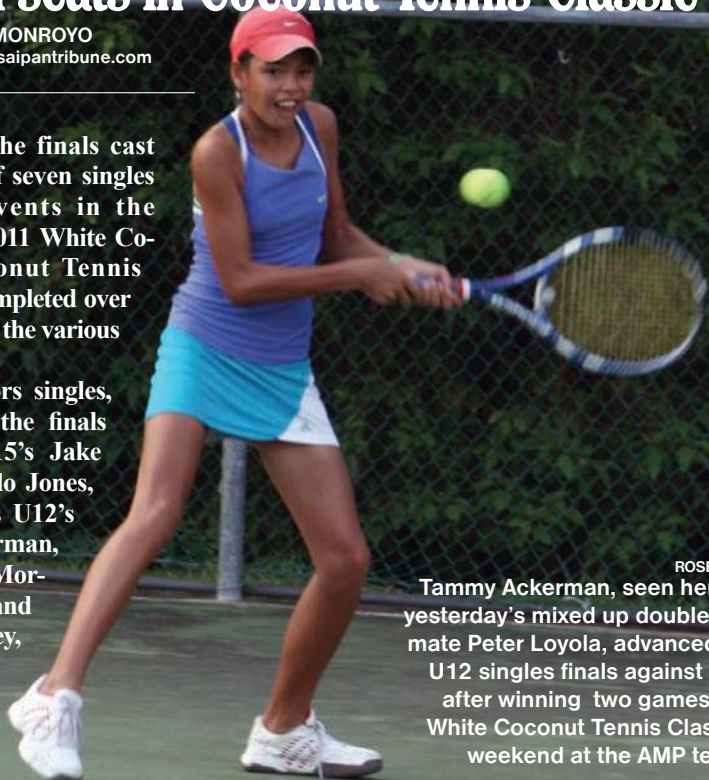
By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The finals cast of seven singles events in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic was completed over the weekend at the various courts here.

In the juniors singles, making it to the finals were boys U15's Jake Lee and Angelo Jones, girls and boys U12's Tammy Ackerman, Emily Jones, Moris Villanueva, and Colin Ramsey, and boys and girls U10's

See 14 on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tammy Ackerman, seen here playing in yesterday's mixed up doubles with teammate Peter Loyola, advanced to the girls U12 singles finals against Emily Jones after winning two games in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic over the weekend at the AMP tennis courts.

Abuel lifts Satbahi past Mobil, 87-83



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER
Satbahi's Wowie Abuel pulls up for a long jumper while two Mobil defenders look on during the fourth quarter of their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Satbati played a catch-up game almost all night and was rewarded with an 87-83 win over Mobil in the curtain raiser in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Satbahi trailed by as much as 20 points in the second quarter, before Wowie Abuel's three-point shooting in the second half and Elgene Mangali and Bart Demapan's contributions brought the team back in the game to steal the win. Satbahi improved to a 4-2 record, while Mobil dropped to a 5-2 mark.

Mobil pulled away in the second period when it started that quarter with an 11-2 run, turning a 17-11 lead to a 28-13 advantage. The lead ballooned to 20 twice, 40-20 and 42-22, as Satbahi continued to struggle on its outside and inside game.

However, fortunes changed in the second half, as Satbahi began overhauling Mobil's lead in the third period.

Down at 25-42, Satbahi had an 11-2 scoring in the first three minutes of the third to move
See **SATBAHI** on Page 26

SIS takes volleyball crown



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Members and coaches of Saipan International School pose with their championship trophy after beating Marianas High School 1 in the finals of the MISO volleyball league on Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Saipan International School foiled Marianas High School 1's upset bid en route to winning the championship in the 2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Volleyball League on Sunday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos earned a first round bye in the double-elimination playoffs for their first place finish and undefeated record in the regular season. They went through Grace Christian Academy in the second round, 25-20, 25-18. Then SIS defeated MHS 1, 25-22, 25-15, to advance to the finals.

The Lady Dolphins 1 swept Kagman High School in the loser's bracket semifinals for another shot at the Lady Geckos. MHS 1 must beat SIS twice to steal the championship.

The Lady Dolphins 1 went on to prevail in Game 1 of the finals to end the Lady Geckos' winning streak this season and force a do-or-die Game 2.

In Game 2, SIS regrouped and won the first set, 25-15. With the second set tied at 14-all, MHS 1 committed too many unforced errors at crunch time, allowing SIS to build momentum. SIS went on to take the second set, 25-16, and was very relieved to save face in the end.

See **SIS** on Page 26